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**JOHN CURTIS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® LOUISIANA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Katie Brignac of John Curtis Christian School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year. Brignac is the second Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from John Curtis Christian School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Brignac as Louisiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Brignac joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Angela Tincher (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-8 senior right-handed pitcher posted a 22-2 record in the circle with a 0.28 ERA this past season, leading the Patriots (30-2) to the Class 3A state championship this past season. Brignac struck out 294 batters and allowed 39 hits in 148.1 innings pitched, firing five no-hitters and holding opponents to a .080 batting average. At the plate, the 2014 New Orleans Advocate Female Athlete of the Year batted .490 with six home runs, 41 RBI and an .823 slugging percentage.

Brignac has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally as part of a literacy-outreach program and as a youth softball coach.

"Katie Brignac was dominating because of her velocity and the control of her rise ball," said Ashlee Ducote, head coach of Parkview Baptist High. "She's been their leader for the last four years and a huge reason why they have been so successful."

Brignac has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Memphis this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Brignac joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Softball Players of the Year Baylee Corbello (2012-13 & 2011-12, Sam Houston High School), Sara Corbello (2010-11, Barbe High School), Meghan Patterson (2009-10 & 2008-09, Mount Carmel Academy), Kelee Grimes (2007-08, Pineville), and Ashley Brignac (2006-07, John Curtis Christian) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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