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**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Megan Colleran of North Attleborough High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year. Colleran is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Attleborough High 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 Colleran as Massachusetts's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Colleran 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 compiled a 17-3 record and a 0.33 ERA in the circle for the Rocketeers (17-3) entering the Division I South sectional semifinals, scheduled for June 4. Through 20 games, Colleran fanned 237 batters and issued just 17 walks in 151 innings pitched. A two-time returning Boston Herald All-Scholastic selection, Colleran owned a .451 batting average with 13 extra-base hits, 20 runs scored and 29 RBI at the time of her selection. Her 776 career strikeouts are a school record, and she needs only eight more to match North Attleboro's single-season mark of 245.

Colleran has maintained a 3.24 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Spanish Honor Society, she has volunteered as a peer tutor and a youth softball instructor. She also organized a personal Strike Out Hunger campaign, collecting one pound of food to donate at a local food pantry for each strikeout she has registered in her final two high school seasons.

"I've seen a lot of great pitchers over the past few years, and Megan Colleran ranks up there with the Meg Ricos and Shannon Smiths," said Kate Fallon, head coach of rival Franklin High. "She is a great competitor in our league as well as a great ambassador of the sport. I've watched her grow as a player over the past four years, and she is a true role model for all young girls that want to play softball."

Colleran has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Massachusetts 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.

Colleran joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Players of the Year Shannon Smith (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2009-10, Milford High School), Emma Mendoker (2010-11, Amherst Regional High School), Nicole D'Argento (2008-09 & 2007-08, Ashland), and Kara Nilan (2006-07, Taconic) 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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