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**ROMEO HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Taylor Weaver of Romeo High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year. Weaver is the first Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Romeo 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 Weaver as Michigan's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Weaver 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 6-foot senior right-handed pitcher has led the Bulldogs (27-6) to the Division 1, Regional 7 semifinals against Fenton High, scheduled for June 7. At the time of her selection, Weaver owned a 22-1 record, a 0.61 ERA and 244 strikeouts in 150.1 innings pitched. She had fired 14 shutouts, including one no-hitter. At the plate, the 2013 First Team All-State selection was batting .473 with two doubles and 16 RBI through 33 games.

Weaver has maintained a 3.24 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Romeo High Link Crew, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a fundraising campaign to benefit the American Cancer Society, as part of a literacy-outreach program and as a youth softball coach.

"Taylor Weaver is an outstanding pitcher and all-around player," said Lisa Downey, head coach of L'Anse Creuse High. "Every time I saw her pitch, I was more and more impressed. She is unflappable. Her mound presence and maturity on the field are amazing."

Weaver has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Central Michigan University 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.

Weaver joins recent Gatorade Michigan Softball Players of the Year Alyssa Huntley (2012-13, Stevenson High School), Briana Combs (2011-12, Ladywood High School), Sara Driesenga (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Hudsonville High School), Jenna Ignowski (2007-08, Niles), and Amanda Chidester (2006-07, Cabrini) 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.

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