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**SKUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Kaylan Jablonski of Skutt Catholic High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year. Jablonski is the first Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skutt Catholic 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 Jablonski as Nebraska's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Jablonski 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-7 senior right-handed pitcher led the Skyhawks (28-4) to the Class B state championship this past season. Jablonski compiled a 23-2 record and a 0.81 ERA on the mound, along with a .610 batting average, nine home runs and 33 RBI at the plate. She struck out 278 batters in 155.2 innings pitched while walking just 22. Captain of the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska Team, she is a four-time First Team All-State selection, and graduates as the owner of the state record for career batting average (.557).

Jablonski has maintained a 3.14 GPA in the classroom. A talented singer and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has volunteered locally assisting the elderly and accompanying physically challenged children on shopping excursions.

"Jablonski is as good as anybody I've ever seen," said Landon Blanchard, head coach at Ralston High. "She throws it hard, in the upper 60s, and she also has great off-speed stuff. She's the real deal."

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

Jablonski joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Softball Players of the Year Madi Unzicker (2012-13, Millard South High School), Alicia Armstrong (2011-12, Beatrice High School), Allie Mathewson (2010-11, Papillion-La Vista South High School), Becca Changstrom (2009-10 & 2008-09, Lincoln Southwest), and Ashley Hagemann (2007-08 & 2006-07, Elkhorn) 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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