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**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEVADA 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 Heather Bowen of Centennial High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year. Bowen is the third Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Bowen as Nevada's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bowen 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-11 senior shortstop led the Bulldogs (30-8) to the regional finals this past season. Bowen batted .558 with 12 home runs, 59 runs scored and 54 RBI. Also the state's Gatorade Softball Player of the Year as a sophomore, she smacked 20 doubles and five triples, and posted a slugging percentage of 1.141 in 2014. Bowen is a four-time First Team All-State selection.

Bowen has maintained a 4.17 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and instructing youth softball players.

"Bowen is a phenomenal player," said Dan Casel, head coach at Legacy High. "She has tremendous power and her numbers are amazing. She's also an excellent shortstop who could play on the grass and still throw you out."

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

Two-time winner Bowen joins Gatorade Nevada Softball Players of the Year Savannah Horvath (2012-13, Centennial High School), Melissa McCormick (2010-11, Palo Verde High School), Karlyn Jones (2009-10, Spanish Springs), Chelsea Cohen (2008-09, Reed), and Mallary Darby (2007-08 & 2006-07, Spanish Springs) 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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