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**WEST FARGO HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Brittany Rheault of West Fargo High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year. Rheault is the third Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Fargo 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 Rheault as North Dakota's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Rheault 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 state's returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-3 senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder posted a 20-0 record along with a 0.40 ERA in the circle this past season, leading the Packers (30-1) to their 17th straight Class A state title. Rheault struck out 207 batters and walked just 13 in 123 innings pitched, firing two no-hitters, including one perfect game. At the plate, the two-time All-Eastern Dakota Conference selection batted .486 with three home runs, 34 RBI and a .752 slugging percentage.

Rheault has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. The editor of the West Fargo High student newspaper, she has volunteered locally with Big Brothers Big Sisters Fargo as well as on behalf of a literacy-outreach program and as a certified LPGA instructor.

"Brittany Rheault is an extremely dominant pitcher," said Darin Schumacher, head coach of Grand Forks Central High. "Not only can she throw hard, she knows how to work a count and move the ball up, down, in and out. She is also a very solid hitter."

Rheault has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Jamestown 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 Rheault joins Gatorade North Dakota Softball Players of the Year Sydney Greenlund (2011-12, West Fargo High School), and Kacie Johnson (2010-11 & 2009-10, West Fargo High School) 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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