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**BLOOM-CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Taran Alvelo of Bloom-Carroll High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Ohio Softball Player of the Year. Alvelo is the first Gatorade Ohio Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bloom-Carroll 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 Alvelo as Ohio's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Alvelo 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-10 junior right-handed pitcher led the Bulldogs to a 27-3 record and the Division III semifinals, scheduled for June 6. Alvelo posted a 25-3 record, a 0.52 ERA with 336 strikeouts and a 0.39 WHIP in 161 innings pitched through 30 games. A 2013 First Team All-State selection and ranked as the nation's No. 6 prospect in the class of 2015 by StudentSports.com, she also batted .462 with seven home runs, 29 RBI, a .775 slugging percentage and a .543 on-base percentage.

Alvelo has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a coordinator on behalf of the B.C. Dawg-a-Thon to benefit the Nationwide Children's Hospital and as a youth softball coach.

"Taran Alvelo is an elite athlete with the ability to turn it up several notches, depending on the situation," said Dave Truex, head coach at Circleville High. "She is a class act all the way around and the best I've seen in my 20-year career."

Alvelo has verbally committed to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Washington beginning in the fall of 2015.

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.

Alvelo joins recent Gatorade Ohio Softball Players of the Year Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School), Kenzie Conrad (2011-12, Keystone High School), Erin Gabriel (2010-11 & 2009-10, Poland Seminary High School), Tess Sito (2008-09 & 2007-08, Elyria), and Jessica Simpson (2006-07, Hoover) 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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