

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**SOUTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Katie Donovan of South Salem High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year. Donovan is the first Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Salem 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 Donovan as Oregon's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Donovan 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 Saxons (27-1) to the Class 6A state semifinals against South Medford High, scheduled for June 3. At the time of her selection, Donovan owned a 26-1 record, a 0.31 ERA and 271 strikeouts in 161 innings pitched. Through 28 games, she fired 19 shutouts and five no-hitters, including one perfect game. At the plate, the two-time Class 6A First Team All-State selection entered the final four batting .449 with two home runs, 39 RBI and a .718 slugging percentage.

Donovan has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a fundraising campaign to benefit Habitat for Humanity and donated her time to multiple community-service initiatives in association with South Salem High's Key Club.

"Katie is one of those rare kids that can reach down and give you extra," said Kevin Wise, head coach of McNary High. "You don't see that very often. She is unshakeable on the mound. She definitely gets in the girls' heads because she is so good."

Donovan has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic 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.

Donovan joins recent Gatorade Oregon Softball Players of the Year Maryssa Becker (2012-13 & 2011-12, North Medford High School), Alyssa Gillespie (2010-11, Glencoe High School), Kaitlin Inglesby (2009-10, Central Catholic), Anna Bertrand (2008-09, McMinnville), Paige Hall (2007-08, Jesuit), and Mikayla Endicott (2006-07, Roseburg) 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.

###