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**HARTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Cayla Drotar of Hartsville High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year. Drotar is the first Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hartsville 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 Drotar as South Carolina's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Drotar 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 sophomore right-handed pitcher led the Red Foxes (26-3) to the Class 3A state championship game this past season. Drotar owned a 14-2 record and a 1.18 ERA in the circle, along with a .560 batting average, 12 home runs and 44 RBI at the plate. The two-time Class 3A Player of the Year, she struck out 138 batters in 95 innings pitched.

Drotar has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally assisting the homeless and has participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"She's a power hitter and a great pitcher," said Adam Jones, head coach at St. James High. "She throws the ball as hard as anybody you'll see on TV, and she gets better as the game goes on. She's as tough as anybody as a hitter too. If you leave a ball over the plate, she'll put it over the fence."

Drotar will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Drotar joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Softball Players of the Year Carley Hoover (2012-13 & 2011-12, D.W. Daniel High School), Leslie Jury (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, J.L. Mann Academy), Stephanie Saylor (2007-08, Wren), and Casey Faile (2006-07, Andrew Jackson) 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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