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**BARBERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Randi Rupp of Barbers Hill High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year. Rupp is the first Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Barbers Hill 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 Rupp as Texas's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Rupp 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 senior right-handed pitcher posted a 27-1 record in the circle along with a 0.45 ERA this past season, leading the Eagles (32-1) to the Class 4A state semifinals. Rupp struck out 303 batters and walked just 27 in 169.2 innings pitched. She allowed 66 hits, holding opponents to a .114 batting average. At the plate, the three-time District MVP batted .398 with four home runs, 21 RBI and a .636 slugging percentage.

Rupp has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally in her church's nursery, at an eldercare facility and at a food bank and homeless shelter.

"Randi Rupp is an outstanding player," said Chad Kimberling, head coach of New Caney High. "In the circle, she was physically dominant. Her height, stature and composure in all situations made her extremely intimidating to a lot of teams."

Rupp has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Texas State University 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.

Rupp joins recent Gatorade Texas Softball Players of the Year Samantha Show (2012-13, Pearland High School), Heather Stearns (2011-12, Hebron High School), Paige McDuffee (2010-11, The Woodlands High School), Rachel Fox (2009-10 & 2008-09, Fort Bend Baptist Academy), Whitney Canion (2007-08, Aledo), and Brittany Barnhill (2006-07, Northwest) 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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