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**LAKE BRADDOCK HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Ashley Flesch of Lake Braddock High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Virginia Softball Player of the Year. Flesch is the first Gatorade Virginia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Braddock 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 Flesch as Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Flesch 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-1 senior right-handed pitcher has led the Bruins (23-1) to the Class 6A North Region semifinals against Langley High, scheduled for June 4. At the time of her selection, Flesch owned an 18-1 record, a 0.23 ERA and 217 strikeouts in 123 innings pitched. She boasted a WHIP of 0.33 and opposing hitters were batting just 0.69 against her. Through 24 games, she surrendered just 27 hits and issued only 13 walks, firing seven no-hitters, including five perfect games. At the plate, Flesch entered the final four with a .444 batting average, three home runs, 27 runs scored and 24 RBI. A two-time All-Patriot District selection, she also carried a .624 on-base percentage and a .730 slugging percentage.

Flesch has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. An officer in Lake Braddock's National Honor Society, she belongs to the Future Business Leaders of America club and has volunteered locally at the Kings Park Library.

"Ashley has great command of several pitches, and when you get behind in the count, your at-bat is pretty much over," said Gary Dillow, head coach of South County High. "She has a devastating rise ball, and when you combine that with her fastball and drop ball, you almost have to decide to swing as soon as she lets go of the ball."

Flesch has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at West Chester University in Pennsylvania 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.

Flesch joins recent Gatorade Virginia Softball Players of the Year Tori Finucane (2012-13 & 2011-12, Bishop O'Connell High School), Kelly Heinz (2010-11, Lee-Davis High School), Chelsey Dunham (2009-10, South County Secondary School), Caroline Williams (2008-09, Loudoun Valley), and Caitlyn Delahaba (2007-08 & 2006-07, Broad Run) 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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