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**RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Kayla Andrews of Richland High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Washington Softball Player of the Year. Andrews is the first Gatorade Washington Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Richland 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 Andrews as Washington's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Andrews 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 posted a 20-2 record in the circle along with a 1.21 ERA this past season, leading the Bombers (25-3) to a third-place finish in the Class 4A state tournament. Andrews struck out 181 batters and walked just 17 in 121.1 innings pitched. At the plate, the two-time First Team All-Conference selection batted .604 with seven home runs, 48 RBI and a .941 slugging percentage. She banged out 11 doubles, scored 18 runs and posted a .643 on-base percentage.

Andrews has maintained a 3.13 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at the Tri-Cities Cancer Center in Kennewick, at an eldercare facility and as a youth softball coach.

"Kayla Andrews plays a big role in Richland's success on the field," said Kate Keyes, head coach of Walla Walla High. "She is the best pitcher in our league and she also supports her defense with a big bat."

Andrews has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Mercer University in Georgia 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.

Andrews joins recent Gatorade Washington Softball Players of the Year Ashley Thompson (2012-13, Connell High School), Madi Schreyer (2011-12, Woodinville High School), Alyson Ambler (2010-11, Walla Walla High School), Hope Klicker (2009-10, Walla Walla), Amanda Fitzsimmons (2008-09, Auburn Riverside), and Sam Skillingstad (2007-08 & 2006-07, Shadle Park) 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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