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**RITCHIE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Kenna DeLancey of Ritchie County High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year. DeLancey is the second Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ritchie County 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 DeLancey as West Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, DeLancey 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 Rebels (27-7) to the Class AA state championship game this past season. DeLancey owned a 15-3 record and a 0.69 ERA in the circle, along with a .653 batting average, eight home runs and 40 RBI at the plate. A First Team All-State selection and the Little Kanawha Conference MVP, she added 13 doubles, 11 triples and 44 stolen bases. DeLancey struck out 196 batters in 111.2 innings pitched while issuing just 23 walks.

DeLancey has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Humane Society.

"DeLancey is a fantastic all-around player," said Aaron Hill, head coach at Wirt County High. "She's a great pitcher who throws extremely hard. She also hits for power and runs the bases well."

DeLancey 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.

DeLancey joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Softball Players of the Year Morgan Zerkle (2012-13, Cabell Midland High School), Kylie Howard (2011-12, John Marshall High School), Ashley Knight (2010-11, Ritchie County High School), Samantha Snodgrass (2009-10, St. Albans), Andi Williamson (2008-09, Chapmanville Regional), Kiarra Chappelle (2007-08, Huntington), and Margaret Osborne (2006-07, St. Albans) 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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