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**CASTLE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Savannah Heebner of Castle View High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year. Heebner is the first Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Castle View 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 Heebner as Colorado's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Heebner 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 senior right-hander led the Sabercats (20-4) to the semifinals of the Class 5A state tournament this past season. Heebner posted a 20-4 record with a 0.77 ERA in the circle, along with a .444 batting average, four home runs and 16 RBI at the plate. The Continental League co-Player of the Year and a First Team All-State honoree, she struck out 263 batters while allowing just 30 walks in 164 innings pitched.

Heebner has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. Also a tennis and basketball standout and a devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs, an elementary school literacy-outreach initiative and Sports Made Possible, which organizes baseball games for physically-challenged children.

"Heebner can straight-out dominate a game in the circle, and she's become a complete player," said Brian Stebbins, head coach at Douglas County High. "She really throws gas, and she added a good change this year that she could throw in any count."

Heebner has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Houston 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.

Heebner joins recent Gatorade Colorado Softball Players of the Year Ally Power (2013-14, Ponderosa High School), Nickie Blue (2012-13, Niwot High School), Rainey Gaffin (2011-12 & 2010-11, Legacy High School), Shelby Babcock (2009-10 & 2008-09, Legacy), and Mallory Duran (2007-08 & 2006-07, Windsor) 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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