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AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Jenna Goodrich of American Heritage School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year. Goodrich is the first Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from American Heritage 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 Goodrich as Florida's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Goodrich 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-8 senior right-hander posted a 15-1 record in the circle along with a 0.38 ERA this past season, leading the Patriots (25-2-1) to the Class 5A state championship game. Goodrich struck out 148 batters in 92 innings pitched, allowing just 25 hits and 21 walks while throwing four no-hitters. At the plate, the 2015 Miami Herald Player of the Year batted .471 with three home runs, 31 RBI and a .743 slugging percentage.

Goodrich has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. A student manager and athletic trainer with the American Heritage High football team, she directed the sports program at a Cub Scout day camp for the Boy Scouts of America and volunteered locally at the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

"Jenna Goodrich does a good job of mixing her pitches and hitting her spots," said Bryan Baucom, head coach of St. Thomas Aquinas. "Her change-up is awesome. She has been their go-to pitcher for three years."

Goodrich has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Georgia Tech beginning this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Goodrich joins recent Gatorade Florida Softball Players of the Year Meghan King (2013-14, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Sydney Wright (2012-13, Bishop Snyder High School), Bianka Bell (2011-12, Chamberlain High School), Sami Fagan (2010-11, Dunnellon High School), Kasey Fagan (2009-10 & 2008-09, Dunnellon), Jaclyn Traina (2007-08, Naples), and Kelsi Dunne (2006-07, Spruce Creek) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.