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EAGLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Bradie Fillmore of Eagle High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year. Fillmore is the fourth Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eagle 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 Fillmore as Idaho's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fillmore 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 junior right-handed pitcher led the Mustangs to a 30-1 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. The Class 5A Southern Idaho Conference Player of the Year, Fillmore posted a 15-1 record with a 0.43 ERA and 179 strikeouts against just 12 walks in 98.1 innings pitched. Also a shortstop, Fillmore batted .609 with 14 stolen bases, 14 home runs, 19 doubles, 61 runs scored and 71 RBI, recording a .637 on-base percentage and a 1.174 slugging percentage. In an 8-6, title-clinching win over Couer d'Alene, she earned the win in the circle and finished 2-for-5 with a double and two runs scored at the plate. A three-time First Team All-Conference selection, she led the Northwest Bullets to a top-15 finish at the Premier Girls Fastpitch National Championships each of the past two summers.

Fillmore has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth softball instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church, an assisted living facility and the Idaho Foodbank. Fillmore also helped organize a Strike Out Cancer fundraiser to benefit two of her coaches who were recently diagnosed with the disease.

"She is a great competitor," said Kevin Schimmelpfennig, head coach of rival Vallivue High. "Offensively, she is by far the toughest hitter we faced all year. Every ball she puts into play is hit hard. We played Eagle twice and I watched them play in the state tournament, and Bradie was by far the best player on the field. She is the complete package on the field."

Fillmore has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of California, Berkeley beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Fillmore joins recent Gatorade Idaho Softball Players of the Year Vanessa Shippy (2013-14, Lake City High School), Casey Stangel (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Lake City High School), Nickayla Skinner (2009-10 & 2008-09, Mountain Home), Joni Cook (2007-08, Eagle), and Britney Croner (2006-07, Bishop Kelly) 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>.