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**CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Miranda Elish of Crown Point High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year. Elish is the first Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Crown Point 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 Elish as Indiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Elish 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-10 junior right-hander had led the Bulldogs to a 29-2 record and a berth in the regional championship game at the time of her selection. The state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Elish owned a 15-0 record and a 0.56 ERA as part of a pitching platoon through 31 games, with 193 strikeouts and just 36 hits allowed in 100 innings pitched. A First Team All-State selection, she was batting .473 with 31 RBI entering the regional final. A three-time First Team All-State selection and a MaxPreps All-American, Elish was also named to the USA TODAY's American Family Insurance ALL-USA Preseason Softball Team.

Elish has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor in her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Best Buddies program, which matches students with developmentally disabled individuals in a mentorship role.

"She throws hard and can blow the ball right by you, but her pitches have good movement too and she locates them well," said Beth Thornburg, head coach at Munster High. "She's also a great fielder and an excellent hitter."

Elish will begin her senior 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.

Two-time winner Elish joins Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Erin Rethlake (2012-13, Huntington North High School), Brooke Boetjer (2011-12, South Putnam High School), Kelsi Jones (2010-11, Carmel High School), Morgan Lewis (2009-10, Lutheran), Mel Dumezich (2008-09, Whiting), Katie Hackney (2007-08, Huntington North), and Emily Wethington (2006-07, Scecina Memorial) 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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