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**BETTENDORF HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 DoniRae Mayhew of Bettendorf High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year. Mayhew is the first Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bettendorf 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 Mayhew as Iowa's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Mayhew 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-9 junior infielder and right-handed pitcher batted .569 with 17 home runs, 64 RBI and a 1.156 slugging percentage, leading the Bulldogs (27-14) to the Class 5A regional semifinals this past season. A 2014 First Team All-State selection, Mayhew led the state in home runs in 2014, posted a .671 on-base percentage and also produced a 9-6 record in the circle with three complete game shutouts and 70 strikeouts in 94 innings.

Mayhew has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. She has helped prepare and deliver meals to families in need during the holiday season and volunteered locally as a peer mentor and on behalf of multiple community clean-up initiatives.

"Offensively, DoniRae Mayhew has been a threat since she was in eighth grade," said Tiffany Rave, head coach at West Delaware High. "With her power numbers it is evident that she is capable of swinging a big bat, but she doesn't strike out often. It's rare to see such a young player with so few strikeouts and so many homeruns. I would say she was the best hitter that we faced in 2014."

Mayhew will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

Iowa—distinct from the other 48 states sanctioning softball—begins its high school softball season in conjunction with Memorial Day, which results in the annual Gatorade honor being based upon candidates' previous scholastic season and offseason club/showcase performance, if applicable.

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.

Mayhew joins recent Gatorade Iowa Softball Players of the Year Paige Lowary (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dallas Center-Grimes High School), Riley Fisher (2011-12, East High School), Jadyn Spencer (2010-11, West High School), Jamie Fisher (2009-10, BCLUW), and Sammy Snygg (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-07, North Polk) 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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