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**PAUL G. BLAZER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Megan Hensley of Paul G. Blazer High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year. Hensley is the first Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Paul G. Blazer 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 Hensley as Kentucky's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Hensley 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder had posted a 22-7 record in the circle along with a 0.73 ERA this season, leading the Kittens (29-7) to the first round of the KHSAA State Tournament against Notre Dame Academy, scheduled for June 4. Hensley had struck out 322 batters and walked 65 in 202.1 innings-pitched through 36 games. At the plate, the 2014 MaxPreps All-American was batting .446 with 16 home runs, 44 RBI and a 1.089 slugging percentage.

Hensley has maintained a weighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Mu Alpha Theta math honor society, she has volunteered locally with the Salvation Army, as a youth softball coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives on behalf of her church youth group.

"Megan Hensley is the best player that we have seen all season," said Shawn Johnson, head coach of Raceland High. "She has a will to win that is unmatched and makes her the most intimidating player that I have seen in 30 years of coaching."

Hensley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Louisville beginning 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 Hensley joins Gatorade Kentucky Softball Players of the Year Jessica Adell (2012-13, Ballard High School), Allison Foster (2011-12, Christian Academy of Louisville), Griffin Joiner (2010-11, Christian County High School), Emily Gaines (2009-10, South Laurel High School), Megan Taylor (2008-09, North Laurel High School), and Kirsten Allen (2007-08 & 2006-07, Ryle High School) 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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