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**Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)**

**SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jen Jones of Sanford High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sanford 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 Jones as Maine's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Jones 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 junior right-handed pitcher and outfielder has led the Spartans to a 13-2 record and a berth in the Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin June 9. Jones posted a 13-2 record with a 1.43 ERA and 198 strikeouts in 107 innings through 15 games and has struck out at least 10 batters in every game she has pitched this spring. A First Team All-State selection, she has also batted .470 with 25 RBI and a .720 slugging percentage.

Jones has maintained a 90.5 average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Nasson Community Center and as a youth soccer and volleyball coach.

"Jen Jones is a great leader of her team on and off the field," said Sanford High head coach Mike Bailey. "Her softball skills speak for themselves through her stats. She also takes five classes a day out of a four-class-per-day schedule by coming in early to school to further her education. She is an all-around great example of a high school student-athlete."

Jones 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Maine Softball Players of the Year Alyssa Williamson (2013-14, Scarborough High School), Sonja Morse (2012-13, Cony High School), Julia Geaumont (2011-12, Thornton Academy), Alexis Bogdanovich (2010-11, South Portland High School), Sam Bedore (2009-10, Bangor High School), Hannah Hill (2008-09 & 2007-08, Fryeburg Academy), and Kelsey Griffin (2006-07, Scarborough 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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