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**SHERWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Nicole Stockinger of Sherwood High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year. Stockinger is the first Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sherwood 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 Stockinger as Maryland's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Stockinger 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 senior shortstop and center fielder posted a .610 batting average with a state-record 14 home runs this past season, leading the Warriors (21-0) to a fourth straight Class 4A state title. A two-time Washington Post First Team All-Met selection, Stockinger knocked in 41 runs, scored 39 times and drew 19 walks, striking out just once en route to a .696 on-base percentage and a 1.508 slugging percentage. She concluded her prep softball career with a state-record 39 home runs.

Stockinger has maintained a weighted 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with the Boys & Girls Club of America and as a youth softball coach.

"Nicole is the best player I have ever coached against in my 15-year career," said Louis Hoelman, head coach of Blair High. "She set the state home run record even though she is pitched around constantly. She works hard and is so modest that you would never know how great she is."

Stockinger has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Towson University 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.

Stockinger joins recent Gatorade Maryland Softball Players of the Year Jordan Cargile (2013-14, Eastern Technical High School), Jess Cummings (2012-13 & 2011-12, Northern High School), Kaitlyn Schmeiser (2010-11, Northern High School), Kourtney Salvarola (2009-10, Broadneck High School), Melanie Mitchell (2008-09, McDonough High School), Lauren Gibson (2007-08, Chesapeake High School), and Kerry Hickey (2006-07, Huntingtown 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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