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**ST. PETER-MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Erin Gallo of St. Peter-Marian High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year. Gallo is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Peter-Marian 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 Gallo as Massachusetts's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gallo 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-5 senior right-handed pitcher led the Guardians to a 20-0 record entering the Central Division 1 sectional tournament. A returning Worcester Telegram & Gazette Super Team selection, Gallo posted a 15-0 record with one save, a 0.21 ERA and 241 strikeouts against just 16 walks in 102.2 innings pitched through 20 games. A four-year varsity starter, Gallo amassed 623 career strikeouts entering the postseason. Also a three-time Central Mass. Conference All-Star, Gallo batted .485 with eight extra-base hits, 15 RBI and 27 runs scored, recording a .534 on-base percentage and a .697 slugging percentage.

A member of the National Honor Society, Gallo has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom and has also served in her school's anti-suicide and spirit clubs. In addition to donating her time as a youth softball instructor, she has volunteered on behalf of the Special Olympics, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the 15-40 Connection foundation to raise cancer awareness.

"She is a dominating pitcher who carries her team each and every game," said Phil Spellane, head coach of rival Doherty High. "We lost to them twice, and she is the main reason. She dominates hitters and is the best pitcher in Central Mass. since [three-time Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year] Shannon Smith from Milford. Her pitching stats speak for themselves, but she is also one of the best hitters in Central Mass. She has speed and power and is the focal point of their offense."

Gallo will spend a postgraduate year at Phillips Academy, where she will play softball 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.

Gallo joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Players of the Year Megan Colleran (2013-14, North Attleborough High School), Shannon Smith (2012-13 & 2011-12, Milford High School), Emma Mendoker (2010-11, Amherst Regional High School), Shannon Smith (2009-10, Milford High School), Nicole D'Argento (2008-09 & 2007-08, Ashland High School), and Kara Nilan (2006-07, Taconic 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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