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**LINCOLN SOUTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Lockhart of Lincoln Southeast High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year. Lockhart is the second Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln Southeast 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 Lockhart as Nebraska's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Lockhart 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 senior shortstop led the Knights (18-16) to the district finals this past season. Lockhart produced a .596 batting average with eight home runs, 45 runs scored and 30 RBI. Captain of the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State team, she also had a .736 on-base percentage and a 1.022 slugging percentage. Lockhart is a two-time member of the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska team and a three-time Super-State honoree, and her .516 career batting average is a Class A state record.

Lockhart has maintained a 4.42 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Capital Humane Society, St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, youth softball programs and a food bank.

"Lockhart is a very bright, very talented kid," said Mark Watt, head coach at Lincoln Southwest High. "She's an excellent hitter who's gotten good through hard work and done every little thing to make herself and her team better."

Lockhart will attend Harvard University this fall, where she will play softball.

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.

Lockhart joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Softball Players of the Year Kaylan Jablonski (2013-14, Skutt Catholic High School), Madi Unzicker (2012-13, Millard South High School), Alicia Armstrong (2011-12, Beatrice High School), Allie Mathewson (2010-11, Papillion-La Vista South High School), Becca Changstrom (2009-10 & 2008-09, Lincoln Southwest High School), and Ashley Hagemann (2007-08 & 2006-07, Elkhorn 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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