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**AVON GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Maggie Balint of Avon Grove High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year. Balint is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Avon Grove 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 Balint as Pennsylvania's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Balint 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 junior right-hander had led the Red Devils to a 20-4 record and a berth in the Class AAAA state tournament at the time of her selection. The state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Balint owned a 19-4 record and a 0.35 ERA in the circle entering the postseason, along with a .493 batting average, three home runs and 18 RBI at the plate. A MaxPreps Preseason All-American and the Class AAAA co-Player of the Year, she had recorded 294 strikeouts in 156.2 innings pitched with just 33 walks entering the postseason. Balint is a First Team All-State honoree and a three-time All-League selection.

Balint has maintained a B average while taking classes at Delaware Valley Friends School. She has volunteered locally assisting the elderly and coaching youth softball players.

"Balint has great stuff and she's a heck of a competitor," said Brian Stackhouse, head coach at Downingtown East High. "She throws the ball pretty hard and she's got a real variety of pitches, but her best thing is her control."

Balint 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.

Two-time winner Balint joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Alexis Bower (2012-13, Williamsport High School), Christy Von Pusch (2011-12, Radnor High School), Lauren Walker (2010-11 & 2009-10, Central York High School), Nicole Smith (2008-09, Milton Area High School), Alexa Bryson (2007-08, Greater Latrobe High School), and Trish Melvin (2006-07, Vincentian Academy) 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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