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Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**SPRINGVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Kaycie Jensen of Springville High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year. Jensen is the first Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Springville 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 Jensen as Utah's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Jensen 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-6 junior right-handed pitcher posted a 21-6 record along with two saves and a 1.05 ERA this past season, leading the Red Devils (26-6-1) to a third-place finish in the Class 4A state tournament. Jensen struck out 252 batters in 181 innings pitched and tossed seven shutouts. At the plate, the 2014 Deseret News Class 4A First Team All-State selection batted .330 with six home runs, 34 RBI and a .692 slugging percentage.

Jensen has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives on behalf of her church youth group.

"Kaycie Jensen is a fearless competitor," said Jill Thackeray, head coach of Springville High. "Everyone who plays with her wants to play harder and better because of her. Without her, our team doesn't have near the success that we had this year."

Jensen has made a verbal commitment to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Dixie State University beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Jensen joins recent Gatorade Utah Softball Players of the Year Kirtlyn Bohling (2013-14 & 2012-13, Salem Hills High School), Jordan Theurer (2011-12, Bear River High School), MaCauley Flint (2010-11, Roy High School), Shelbi Tyteca (2008-09, Viewmont), Tori Almond (2009-10 & 2007-08, Bingham High School), and Cyd Allen (2006-07, Taylorsville) 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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