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**KECOUGHTAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Maddy Morris of Kecoughtan High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Virginia Softball Player of the Year. Morris is the first Gatorade Virginia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kecoughtan 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 Morris as Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Morris 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 right-handed pitcher posted a 17-5 record and a 1.03 ERA this past season, leading the Warriors (18-5) to the Class 6A South Regional tournament. Morris struck out 270 batters in 149.2 innings pitched, allowing just 55 hits and 20 walks. A two-time Monitor-Merrimac Conference Pitcher of the Year, she batted .415 with three home runs, 23 RBI and a .707 slugging percentage.

Morris has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a youth softball coach in addition to donating her time by shoveling snow for elderly neighbors.

"Maddy Morris has carried that team for four years," said Jimmy Dawson, head coach of Warwick High. "She is the best impact player that I know. She will not be replaced for a long time, if ever, for Kecoughtan."

Morris has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Georgetown 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.

Morris joins recent Gatorade Virginia Softball Players of the Year Ashley Flesch (2013-14, Lake Braddock High School), Tori Finucane (2012-13 & 2011-12, Bishop O'Connell High School), Kelly Heinz (2010-11, Lee-Davis High School), Chelsey Dunham (2009-10, South County Secondary School), Caroline Williams (2008-09, Loudoun Valley), and Caitlyn Delahaba (2007-08 & 2006-07, Broad Run) 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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