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**BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST 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 Ali Burdette of Buffalo High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year. Burdette is the first Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Buffalo 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 Burdette as West Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Burdette 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-8 senior right-hander led the Bison (32-6) to the Class A state championship this past season. Burdette posted a 25-1 record and a 0.34 ERA in the circle, along with a .674 batting average, 10 home runs and 50 RBI at the plate. The Kanawha Valley Player of the Year, she struck out 253 batters in 161 innings against just 15 walks. Burdette is a four-time member of the Class A All-State Tournament Team and was co-captain of the Class A All-State Team as a junior.

Burdette has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has served in the student council and has volunteered locally on behalf of food donation drives, the American Red Cross and Operation Christmas Child.

"Burdette is a terrific pitcher and a phenomenal hitter," said Kevin Corbett, head coach at Charleston Catholic High. "She stands out far and above anyone else we saw all year."

Burdette has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Marshall University 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.

Burdette joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Softball Players of the Year Kenna DeLancey (2013-14, Ritchie County High School), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13, Cabell Midland High School), Kylie Howard (2011-12, John Marshall High School), Ashley Knight (2010-11, Ritchie County High School), Samantha Snodgrass (2009-10, St. Albans), Andi Williamson (2008-09, Chapmanville Regional), Kiarra Chappelle (2007-08, Huntington), and Margaret Osborne (2006-07, St. Albans) 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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