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**CURRY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Ashlee Swindle of Curry High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Alabama Softball Player of the Year. Swindle is the first Gatorade Alabama Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Curry 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 Swindle as Alabama's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Swindle 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-handed pitcher led the Yellow Jackets (47-2) to the Class 4A state championship this past season. Swindle compiled a 45-2 record and a 0.59 ERA in the circle, along with a .557 batting average, 13 home runs and 86 RBI at the plate. A member of USA TODAY's American Family Insurance Preseason ALL-USA Softball Team, she was the Class 4A Player of the Year and a Super All-State Team honoree as a junior.

Swindle has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal shelter in addition to participating in food, clothing and toy drives to benefit the needy.

"Ashlee Swindle is outstanding," said Karen Johns, head coach at Hewitt-Trussville High. "I think she's the best high school pitcher in Alabama, and she's likely one of the top ten hitters too."

Swindle has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Auburn 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.

Swindle joins recent Gatorade Alabama Softball Players of the Year Lacey Sumerlin (2014-15, Baker High School), Holly Ward (2013-14, Haleyville High School), Kasey Cooper (2012-13, Dothan High School), Haylie McCleney (2011-12, Mortimer Jordan High School), Shelby Holley,(2010-11, Pisgah High School), Leigh Streetman, (2009-10, Hueytown High School), Heather Parker (2008-09, Mortimer Jordan High School), Lindsey Dunlap (2007-08, Hueytown High School), and Meghan Harbuck, (2006-07, Baker 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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