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**BALD KNOB HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Autumn Humes of Bald Knob High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Arkansas Softball Player of the Year. Humes is the first Gatorade Arkansas Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bald Knob 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 Humes as Arkansas's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Humes 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior right-handed pitcher led the Bulldogs to a 36-0 record and a second straight Class 3A state championship this past season. Humes was 31-0 in the circle with a 0.34 ERA this past season, striking out 295 batters in 185 innings pitched. She allowed 60 hits and 31 walks with 19 shutouts and three perfect games. At the plate, the four-time Class 3A First Team All-State selection batted .527 with 11 home runs, 54 RBI and a 1.036 slugging percentage.

Humes has maintained a weighted 4.02 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Bald Knob High yearbook staff, she has volunteered locally as a youth pitching instructor and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group.

"Autumn can control the game because she has such good control of her pitches," said Brett Haley, head coach of Glen Rose High. "Batters hit what Autumn wants them to hit, and that is a coach's dream to have as a pitcher."

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

Two-time winner Humes joins Gatorade Arkansas Softball Players of the Year Andrea Kindrick (2013-14 & 2012-13, Russellville High School), Peyton Jenkins (2011-12, Bryant High School), Kimmy Beasley, (2010-11, Foreman High School), Shelby Jo Fenter, (2009-10, West Memphis High School), Shelby Wise (2008-09 & 2007-08, Nettleton High School), and Amanda Summerford, (2006-07, Fayetteville 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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