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**POLYTECH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Whitney DeMora of Polytech High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year. DeMora is the first Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Polytech 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 DeMora as Delaware's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, DeMora 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-7 senior infielder batted .582 with 11 home runs, 27 runs scored and 29 RBI this past season, leading the Panthers (13-6) to a berth in the state postseason tournament. A returning Honorable Mention All-State selection, DeMora worked 16 walks and collected 23 extra-base hits, recording a .681 on-base percentage and a 1.400 slugging percentage. She helped lead Polytech to the 2015 state championship as a junior.

DeMora has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her babysitting services to a family in need, she has volunteered as a youth softball instructor.

"Whitney is an outstanding hitter," said Nicki Shirey, head coach at rival Smyrna High. "We definitely give the sign to pitch around her at all cost. Sometimes that doesn't even matter. In our last matchup, she took a very low, way-outside pitch and slammed it well over our fence, leaving us all in awe."

DeMora has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Wilmington 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.

DeMora joins recent Gatorade Delaware Softball Players of the Year Regan Green (2014-15 & 2013-14, Laurel High School), Carolyn Szymanski (2012-13, Caravel Academy), Kim Smith (2011-12, Sussex Tech High School), Rachel Gillen,(2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Archmere Academy), Erika Brittingham (2007-08, Sussex Central High School), and Brandy Jester, (2006-07, Sussex Central 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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