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**GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® FLORIDA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Katie Chronister of Gainesville High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year. Chronister is the first Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gainesville 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 Chronister as Florida's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Chronister 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 left-handed pitcher led the Hurricanes to a 28-2 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. Chronister was 28-2 in the circle with a 0.53 ERA, striking out 273 batters in 186.1 innings pitched. She allowed just 92 hits and 36 walks while throwing 12 shutouts. The 2016 Class 7A State Pitcher of the Year and the 2015 Class 6A Pitcher of the Year, she batted .457 with 33 runs scored, 29 RBI and a .666 slugging percentage.

Chronister has maintained a weighted 4.5 GPA in the classroom. The secretary of the Gainesville High student body and the president of her class as a junior, Chronister was named her school's Student Volunteer of the Year. She has volunteered locally delivering Thanksgiving baskets to families in need and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through the Santa Fe Recreation Center.

"Katie is the absolute definition of a leader on and off the field," said Andrea Magura, head coach of P.K. Yonge High. "What makes her so special is that she isn't satisfied being just an absolutely dominant pitcher. She's a terror on the bases and will deliver crushing hits to lead her team to victory."

Chronister has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Chronister joins recent Gatorade Florida Softball Players of the Year Jenna Goodrich (2014-15, American Heritage School), Meghan King (2013-14, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Sydney Wright (2012-13, Bishop Snyder High School), Bianka Bell (2011-12, Chamberlain High School), Sami Fagan, (2010-11, Dunnellon High School), Kasey Fagan, (2009-10 & 2008-09, Dunnellon), Jaclyn Traina (2007-08, Naples High School), and Kelsi Dunne, (2006-07 & 2005-06, Spruce Creek 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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