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EAGLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Bradie Fillmore of Eagle High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year. Fillmore is the fourth Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eagle 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 Fillmore as Idaho's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fillmore 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 right-handed pitcher and shortstop led the Mustangs (24-0) to the Class 5A state title this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Fillmore posted a 13-0 record in the circle with a 0.49 ERA and 155 strikeouts in 71 innings. The four-time First Team All-State selection and a member of USA TODAY's American Family Insurance Preseason ALL-USA team, she also batted .641 with 14 home runs and 57 RBI this spring.

Fillmore has maintained a 3.52 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Idaho Foodbank and an assisted living center in addition to serving as a church camp counselor and as a youth softball coach.

"Bradie Fillmore is without a doubt an outstanding softball player," said Kerri Pline, head coach at Columbia High. "She is composed and precise and her pitches are fast and move well. Her bat is also phenomenal. She hit two homeruns in one game and I have never seen a high school girl hit balls that high and that far."

Fillmore has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of California at Berkeley 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 Fillmore joins Gatorade Idaho Softball Players of the Year Vanessa Shippy (2013-14, Lake City High School), Casey Stangel (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Lake City High School), Nickayla Skinner, (2009-10 & 2008-09, Mountain Home High School), Joni Cook (2007-08, Eagle High School), and Britney Croner, (2006-07, Bishop Kelly 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.