

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Miranda Elish of Crown Point High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year. Elish is the second Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Crown Point 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 Elish as Indiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Elish 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-10 senior right-handed pitcher led the Bulldogs (28-2) to the sectional finals this past season. Also the state's Gatorade Softball Player of the Year as a sophomore and junior, Elish compiled a 15-2 record with a 0.41 ERA in the circle, along with a .505 batting average, seven home runs and 26 RBI at the plate. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she struck out 196 batters in 103 innings pitched, surrendering just 31 hits and 13 walks. Elish was also named to the USA TODAY's American Family Insurance All-USA Preseason Softball Team and is ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2016 by FloSoftball.com.

Elish has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Student Athletic Council and the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Best Buddies program, which pairs students with developmentally disabled individuals.

"Elish has really good stuff and she's very in charge when she's on the mound," said Bob Severs, head coach at LaPorte High. "She has great movement and a great rise ball. She's got a lot of pop in her bat too, and she can spray it to any field. You can't find a better all-around player in Indiana."

Elish has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Elish joins recent Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Miranda Elish (2014-15 & 2013-14, Crown Point High School), Erin Rethlake (2012-13, Huntington North High School), Brooke Boetjer (2011-12, South Putnam High School), Kelsi Jones (2010-11, Carmel High School), Morgan Lewis (2009-10, Lutheran High School), Mel Dumezich (2008-09, Whiting High School), Katie Hackney (2007-08, Huntington North High School), and Emily Wethington (2006-07 & 2005-06, Scecina Memorial 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.

###