

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**BENTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Alyssa Wiebel of Benton Community High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year. Wiebel is the first Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Benton Community 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 Wiebel as Iowa's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Wiebel 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-8 senior infielder and right-handed pitcher batted .600 with 21 home runs, 71 RBI and a 1.234 slugging percentage, leading the Bobcats (42-4) to the Class 3A state final this past season. A 2015 Super Team All-State selection, Wiebel led the state in home runs in 2015 and posted a 12-1 record with a 2.40 ERA in the circle last summer.

Wiebel has maintained a 4.06 GPA in the classroom. She has served as the president of her graduating class and has volunteered locally on behalf of Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC), in addition to donating her time as a vacation bible school counselor and as a youth softball coach.

"Alyssa Wiebel has exceptional bat speed and is a top-notch hitter," said Benton Community head coach Eric Stenberg. "She has power to all fields, great range defensively, tremendous arm strength and an extremely quick release. She is a very good pitcher as well with the ability to change speeds and hit her spots."

Wiebel has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Illinois State University this fall.

Iowa—distinct from the other 48 states sanctioning softball—begins its high school softball season in conjunction with Memorial Day, which results in the annual Gatorade honor being based upon candidates' previous scholastic season and offseason club/showcase performance, if applicable.

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.

Wiebel joins recent Gatorade Iowa Softball Players of the Year DoniRae Mayhew (2014-15, Bettendorf High School), Paige Lowary (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dallas Center-Grimes High School), Riley Fisher (2011-12, East High School), Jady Spencer, (2010-11, West High School), Jamie Fisher, (2009-10, BCLUW High School), and Sammy Snygg (2008-09, 2007-08, & 2006 - 07, North Polk 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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