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**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Meghan Beaubien of St. Mary Catholic Central High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year. Beaubien is the first Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Mary Catholic Central 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 Beaubien as Michigan's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Beaubien 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 junior left-handed pitcher and first baseman has led the Kestrels to a 21-5 record and a berth in the Division 3, District 83 tournament semifinals against Erie-Mason High, scheduled for June 4. Beaubien is 18-1 in the circle with a 0.36 ERA and 286 strikeouts in 135 innings pitched. The two-time Division 3 First Team All-State selection has allowed just 43 hits and issued only 3 walks, recording three no-hitters and one perfect game. At the plate, the 2015 National Fastpitch Coaches Association Second Team All-American is batting .462 with two home runs, 26 runs scored and a .679 slugging percentage.

Beaubien has maintained a weighted 4.66 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth tutor and as a pitching instructor in addition to donating her time on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives through her school's Rotary International Interact Club.

"Meghan's success this year has been nothing short of dominating," said Tedi Belisle, head coach of Huron High. "She is one of the best high school pitchers I have seen in many years. You see her pick batters apart, find their weakness and make adjustments. She doesn't pitch one batter the same ever. It's impressive to see an athlete on the collegiate level do that, but in high school, it's a rarity."

Beaubien has made a verbal commitment to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Michigan beginning in the fall of 2017.

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 Beaubien joins recent Gatorade Michigan Softball Players of the Year Taylor Weaver (2013-14, Romeo High School), Alyssa Huntley (2012-13, Stevenson High School), Briana Combs (2011-12, Ladywood High School), Sara Driesenga, (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Hudsonville High School), Jenna Ignowski (2007-08, Niles High School), and Amanda Chidester, (2006-07, Cabrini 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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