

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**PARK HILL SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Olivia Kinsey of Park Hill South High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Missouri Softball Player of the Year. Kinsey is the first Gatorade Missouri Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Park Hill South 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 Kinsey as Missouri's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Kinsey 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 junior right-handed pitcher led the Panthers (25-4) to the district finals this past season. Kinsey posted a 17-3 record with a 1.03 ERA in the circle and batted .429 with six home runs and 28 RBI. The Kansas City Star All-Metro Player of the Year, she also struck out 236 batters in 122.1 innings. Kinsey is a First Team All-State selection and is ranked as the nation's No. 35 recruit in the Class of 2017 by FloSoftball.com.

Kinsey has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball programs.

"Olivia Kinsey is the toughest pitcher we've faced for the past two seasons," said Jairus Tapp, head coach at Staley High. "She's a phenomenal player. I've been really impressed with her raw talent and her competitiveness. She's just a bulldog."

Kinsey will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Kinsey joins recent Gatorade Missouri Softball Players of the Year Brittany Nimmo (2014-15, Ozark High School), Paige Parker (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2010-11, Truman High School), Emily Crane (2011-12, Troy Buchanan High School), Jessica Damico, (2009-10, Pacific High School), Nicole Hudson (2008-09, Webb City High School), Courtney Conley (2007-08, Eureka High School), and Kristin Nottelmann, (2006-07, Rockwood Summit 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.

###