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**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Santana Parra of Centennial High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Mexico Softball Player of the Year. Parra is the first Gatorade New Mexico Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Parra as New Mexico's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Parra 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 led the Hawks (26-6) to the Class 5A state title this past season. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Parra posted a 15-2 record in the circle with a 1.88 ERA and 112 strikeouts in 115.2 innings. Offensively, she produced a .551 batting average with nine home runs, 40 RBI and a 1.025 slugging percentage.

Parra has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and with her church youth group.

"Santana Parra is an extremely talented softball player who throws an assortment of pitches," said Centennial High head coach Alex Maynez. "At all times, I have found her to be a loyal, dependable, hard-working and self-motivated player both on and off the field. Beyond that, she is very committed to her education."

Parra will attend Yavapai Community College this fall, where she will play softball.

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.

Parra joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Softball Players of the Year BreOnna Castaneda (2014-15, Rio Rancho High School), Nicole Pendley (2013-14, Rio Rancho High School), Jasmine Casados (2012-13, La Cueva High School), Katera Eltsosie (2011-12, Volcano Vista High School), Karysta Donisthorpe,(2010-11 & 2009-10, Piedra Vista High School), Melissa Martinez (2008-09 & 2007-08, Cibola High School), and Karisa Medrano, (2006-07, St. Pius X 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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