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**W.T. CLARKE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Sarah Cornell of W.T. Clarke High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year. Cornell is the first Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from W.T. Clarke 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 Cornell as New York's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Cornell 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 right-handed pitcher had led the Rams to a 16-3 record and a berth in the Class A state quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Cornell owned a 16-3 record and a 0.50 ERA in the circle entering the state playoffs, along with a .500 batting average, six home runs and 26 RBI. The Long Island Player of the Year and a First Team All-State honoree, she had struck out 228 batters in 125 innings pitched, surrendering just 52 hits and 33 walks.

Cornell has maintained B average in the classroom. She has raised money to benefit breast cancer awareness and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs as well as her school's Athletic Booster Club.

"She's a special pitcher," said Anthony Turco, head coach at Carey High. "She's a Nolan Ryan-type player: power and dominance. She understands the game, she has confidence in her stuff and she can hit too."

Cornell has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Hofstra University 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.

Cornell joins recent Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Toni Polk (2014-15, Niagara Falls High School), Julia DiMartino (2013-14, Brockport High School), Sydney O'Hara (2012-13, Cicero-North Syracuse High School), Kristen Brown (2011-12, MacArthur High School), Marissa Diescher, (2010-11, Livingston Manor High School), Tammy Wray, (2009-10, Somers High School), Olivia Galati (2008-09, St. John the Baptist High School), Cassie Reilly-Boccia (2007-08, Yorktown High School), and Chelsea Plimpton, (2006-07, Williamsville South 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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