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**DICKSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Brooklin Lee of Dickson County High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year. Lee is the first Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dickson County 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 Lee as Tennessee's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Lee 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 Softball Player of the Year, Lee led the Cougars to a 41-7-1 record and a second Class AAA state championship in three years this past season. The 5-foot-8 senior right-handed pitcher posted a 28-6 record with a 0.85 ERA and 289 strikeouts against 43 walks in 197.1 innings pitched. Also a third baseman, Lee batted .388 with five home runs, 37 runs scored and 38 RBI. A three-time returning Class AAA First Team All-State selection as named by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association, Lee worked 20 walks, stole 20 bases and belted 18 extra-base hits, compiling a 1.132 OPS. She led Dickson County to the Class AAA state title game each of the past four seasons.

Lee has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's award-winning Health Occupations Students of America program, she has also donated her time as a youth softball instructor.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed watching Brooklin play and coaching against her," said Melissa Weiland, head coach of rival Independence High. "She's a game-changer on the mound, really good with the bat and—most importantly—a team player. She's a great leader. You don't see pitchers like her very often. Someone of that character is definitely deserving of Gatorade Player of the Year."

Lee has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Belmont 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.

Two-time winner Lee joins Gatorade Tennessee Softball Players of the Year Cori Jennings (2013-14, Gordonsville High School), Makenzie Prince (2012-13, Smyrna High School), Kelsey Nunley (2011-12, Soddy-Daisy High School), Lacye Walker (2010-11, Grace Baptist Academy), Ellen Renfroe (2009-10, Trinity Christian Academy), Kelsey Cartwright (2008-09, Goodpasture Christian School), Holly Thomas (2007-08, Ooltewah High School), and Baillie Lott (2006-07, Brentwood 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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