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**KENNEDY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Maggie Gallagher of Kennedy Catholic High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Washington Softball Player of the Year. Gallagher is the first Gatorade Washington Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kennedy Catholic 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 Gallagher as Washington's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gallagher 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-5 senior shortstop batted .714 with 17 home runs this past season, leading the Lancers (16-6) to the Class 3A West Central District Tournament semifinals. Gallagher banged out six doubles, three triples, walked 27 times, scored 54 runs and tallied 53 RBI. A 2015 MaxPreps Small Schools All-American and a two-time Seamount League MVP, she finished the season with a .798 on-base percentage and a 1.839 slugging percentage.

Gallagher has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. Abandoned as a newborn baby in China and adopted at 18 months of age, she has volunteered locally on behalf of community beautification projects and as a youth softball coach. She has also donated her time with a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research and as a member of the Kennedy Catholic High Link Crew, supporting incoming freshmen and new students.

"Maggie Gallagher is easily the most well-rounded and dominant player we have faced as a team this season," said Rick Ronish, head coach of Seattle Christian High. "She has all the tools: hits for average, with power and can run. She is terrific in the field with incredible range both directions and a gun of an arm."

Gallagher has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Washington beginning 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.

Gallagher joins recent Gatorade Washington Softball Players of the Year Quinn Breidenbach (2014-15, Enumclaw High School), Kayla Andrews (2013-14, Richland High School), Ashley Thompson (2012-13, Connell High School), Madi Schreyer (2011-12, Woodinville High School), Alyson Ambler (2010-11, Walla Walla High School), Hope Klicker (2009-10, Walla Walla High School), Amanda Fitzsimmons (2008-09, Auburn Riverside High School), and Sam Skillingstad (2007-08 & 2006-07, Shadle Park 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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