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**SISSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Alexee Haynes of Sissonville High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year. Haynes is the second Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sissonville 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 Haynes as West Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Haynes 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 third baseman and right-handed pitcher led the Indians (26-9) to the regional final this past season. Haynes compiled a .612 batting average with seven home runs, 55 RBI and 60 runs scored. The Kanawha Valley Player of the Year, she also posted an 8-2 record in the circle with a 0.99 ERA. Haynes is a three-time First Team All-State honoree.

Haynes has maintained a 4.36 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics.

"She's an elite talent—she can really do anything on a softball field," said David Skeens, head coach at Poca High. "She's very hard to pitch to, because she has a lot of power, but she's excellent at making contact and going the opposite way if she has to. I've never seen her have a bad game."

Haynes has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh 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.

Haynes joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Softball Players of the Year Ali Burdette (2014-15, Buffalo High School), Kenna DeLancey (2013-14, Ritchie County High School), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13, Cabell Midland High School), Kylie Howard (2011-12, John Marshall High School), Ashley Knight (2010-11, Ritchie County High School), Samantha Snodgrass (2009-10, St. Albans High School), Andi Williamson (2008-09, Chapmanville Regional High School), Kiarra Chappelle (2007-08, Huntington High School), and Margaret Osborne (2006-07, St. Albans 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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