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**PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® MICHIGAN SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jenny Bressler of Plymouth High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year. Bressler is the first Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Plymouth 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 Bressler as Michigan's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bressler joins an elite alumni association of past state softball award-winners, including Catherine Osterman (2000-01, Cy Spring High School, Texas), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City High School, Kan.), Carley Hoover (2012-13 D.W. Daniel High School, S.C.), Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School, Ohio), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13 Cabell Midland High School, W. Va.), and Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-5 senior right-handed pitcher and infielder had led the Wildcats to a 27-5 record and a berth in the Division 1, District 16 tournament at the time of her selection. Bressler compiled an 18-3 mark with a 1.20 ERA and 194 strikeouts in 128.2 innings through 32 games. At the plate, Bressler produced a .456 batting average with 15 doubles, 37 RBI and a .777 slugging percentage. She is a two-time Division 1 First Team All-State honoree.

Bressler has volunteered locally at a non-profit youth softball tournament and with the Miracle League of Plymouth.

Bressler has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Bressler joins recent Gatorade Michigan Softball Players of the Year Meghan Beaubien (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, St. Mary Catholic Central High School), Taylor Weaver (2013-14, Romeo High School), Alyssa Huntley (2012-13, Stevenson High School), Briana Combs (2011-12, Ladywood High School), Sara Driesenga (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Hudsonville High School), Jenna Ignowski (2007-08, Niles High School), and Amanda Chidester (2006-07, Cabrini High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jenny will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.