

**NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 28, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced McKenzie Wagoner of Newcastle High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Player of the Year. Wagoner is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Newcastle 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 Wagoner as Oklahoma's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Wagoner joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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-8 senior right-handed pitcher led the Racers (32-6) to the Class 4A state championship this past season, posting a 24-3 record with a 0.37 ERA. Wagoner walked just 29 batters in 172 innings pitched, while striking out 291. The Daily Oklahoman Little All-City Player of the Year, she also batted .460 with 40 RBI and is ranked as the nation's No. 44 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Extra Inning Softball.

Wagoner has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth sports programs. "McKenzie Wagoner is one of the best players I've ever seen," said Chance Griffin, head coach at McLoud High School. "She spins every pitch she throws at a crazy rate and her ball moves a ton, and then she can rear back and pump it about 65 MPH when she needs to."

Wagoner has maintained a 4.27 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Liberty University.

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 and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Wagoner joins Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Players of the Year Macy McAdoo (2018-19, Tuttle High School), Olivia Rains (2017-18, Pryor High School), Sydney Sherrill (2016-17, Southmoore High School), Makenzie Flewellen (2015-16, Drumright High School), and Jayden Chestnut (2014-15, Mustang High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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