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**BROOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Linnie Malkin of Broomfield High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year. Malkin is the first Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Broomfield 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 Malkin as Colorado's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Malkin 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-11 senior third baseman led the Eagles (22-3) to the Class 5A state finals this past season. Malkin compiled a .603 batting average with 11 home runs, 35 RBI and a 1.365 slugging percentage. A First Team All-State selection, she is also a four-time All-Front Range League honoree and was named the Class 5A Player of the Year.

Malkin has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and assisting special education students in her school. "Linnie Malkin is a great kid and an outstanding softball player," said Dave Philop, head coach at Fossil Ridge High School. "She hits the ball a ton and she's a great defensive player with a cannon for an arm. She's got tremendous talent. I'm very anxious not to have to face her next year."

Malkin has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Malkin joins recent Gatorade Colorado Softball Players of the Year Haley Donaldson (2015-16, Fossil Ridge High School), Savannah Heebner (2014-15, Castle View High School), Ally Power (2013-14, Ponderosa High School), Nickie Blue (2012-13, Niwot High School), Rainey Gaffin (2011-12 & 2010-11, Legacy High School), Shelby Babcock (2009-10 & 2008-09, Legacy High School), Mallory Duran (2007-08, Windsor High School), and Mallory Duran, (2006-07, Windsor High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Linnie 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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