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## CORAL SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE® FLORIDA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 5, 2017) — In its  $32^{nd}$  year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Ally Muraskin of Coral Springs Charter School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year. Muraskin is the first Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Coral Springs Charter 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 Muraskin as Florida's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Muraskin 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 right-handed pitcher led the Panthers to a 30-1 record and a third straight Class 5A state championship this past season. Muraskin posted a 28-1 mark in the circle with a 0.27 earned run average and 269 strikeouts in 161 innings pitched. At the plate, she batted .341 with six doubles, 24 RBI and a .411 on-base percentage. The 2015 and 2016 Sun Sentinel Player of the Year, she concluded her prep softball career with a record of 80-4.

Muraskin has volunteered locally as a math tutor and youth softball coach. "Ally not only throws hard, but her movement and location are exceptional," said John McGuire, head coach of Pompano Beach High School. "She by far has been the toughest pitcher we have faced the last two years. She is also a very good bat who has the ability to hit the ball out of the park."

Muraskin has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Central Florida 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 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.

Muraskin joins recent Gatorade Florida Softball Players of the Year Katie Chronister (2015-16, Gainesville High School), Jenna Goodrich (2014-15, American Heritage School), Meghan King (2013-14, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Sydney Wright (2012-13, Bishop Snyder High School), Bianka Bell (2011-12, Chamberlain High School), Sami Fagan (2010-11, Dunnellon High School), Kasey Fagan (2009-10 & 2008-09, Dunnellon High School), Jaclyn Traina (2007-08, Naples High School), and Kelsi Dunne (2006-07, Spruce Creek High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Ally 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 <a href="https://www.gatorade.com/poy.">www.gatorade.com/poy.</a>