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**WILLIAMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Carly Wagers of Williamsburg High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Ohio Softball Player of the Year. Wagers is the first Gatorade Ohio Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Williamsburg 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 Wagers as Ohio's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Wagers 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-10 junior left-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Wildcats to a 28-2 record and a berth in the Division IV semifinals at the time of her selection. Wagers established Ohio High School Athletic Association state single-season records with 22 home runs and 80 RBI through 30 games to go with a .648 batting average. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she also posted a 16-1 record in the circle with a 0.44 ERA and 246 strikeouts in 110 innings, firing six no-hitters in the process.

Wagers has volunteered locally on behalf a homeless shelter, as a teacher's aide and as a youth basketball and softball coach. "Carly Wagers is one of the most physically strong athletes that I have ever coached," said Williamsburg head coach Rick Healey. "She has hit the ball more than 250 feet multiple times and has hit 65 miles per hour with her fastball. She's also quick to pick her teammates up if she senses they are down. She is an awesome young lady."

Wagers has maintained a B average in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Wagers joins recent Gatorade Ohio Softball Players of the Year Madi Huck (2015-16, Hayes High School), Tara Trainer (2014-15, Lebanon High School), Taran Alvelo (2013-14, Bloom-Carroll High School), Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School), Kenzie Conrad (2011-12, Keystone High School), Erin Gabriel (2010-11 & 2009-10, Poland Seminary High School), Tess Sito (2008-09 & 2007-08, Elyria High School), and Jessica Simpson (2006-07, Hoover High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Carly 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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