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**MEIGS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Ashley Rogers of Meigs County High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year. Rogers is the first Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Meigs County 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 Rogers as Tennessee's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Rogers 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 right-handed pitcher led the Tigers (41-3) to the Class A state championship this past season. Rogers compiled a 33-3 record and a 0.27 ERA in the circle along with a .406 batting average, seven home runs and 45 RBI. She struck out 441 batters with just 10 walks in 208 innings pitched. An All-State honoree, she was the Class A Miss Softball winner as a sophomore and the Chattanooga Times Free Press Best of Preps Player of the Year.

Rogers has volunteered on behalf of her church's summer camp and youth missions. "Ashley Rogers is as good a pitcher as anyone in the state at any level," said Dewayne Hunt, head coach at Grace Christian Academy. "She also brings a strong presence to the plate."

Rogers has maintained a 4.0 GPA 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.

Rogers joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Softball Players of the Year Brooklin Lee (2015-16 & 2014-15, Dickson County High School), Cori Jennings (2013-14, Gordonsville High School), Makenzie Prince (2012-13, Smyrna High School), Kelsey Nunley (2011-12, Soddy-Daisy High School), Lacye Walker (2010-11, Grace Baptist Academy), Ellen Renfroe (2009-10, Trinity Christian Academy), Kelsey Cartwright (2008-09, Goodpasture Christian School), Holly Thomas (2007-08, Ooltewah High School), and Baillie Lott (2006-07, Brentwood High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Ashley 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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