

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**SPANISH FORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Cambrie Hazel of Spanish Fork High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year. Hazel is the first Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spanish Fork 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 Hazel as Utah's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Hazel 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 and outfielder led the Dons to a 30-3-1 record and a third straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Hazel posted a 24-0 record with a 1.25 earned run average, recording 221 strikeouts in 140.1 innings pitched. At the plate, Hazel batted .439 with six home runs, 26 runs scored and a .673 slugging percentage. She is a two-time Salt Lake Tribune All-State selection and was the 2016 Deseret News Class 4A MVP.

Hazel has volunteered locally as a peer tutor in her school's special education classes and as a youth softball coach. "Cambrie's stats are indicative of her impact on each game that she plays," said Jill Thackeray, head coach of Springville High School. "Cambrie is a game-changer. She is focused and determined and is an incredible athlete."

Hazel has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at Dixie State University 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.

Hazel joins recent Gatorade Utah Softball Players of the Year Taylei Williams (2015-16, Juab High School), Kaycie Jensen (2014-15, Springville High School), Kirtlyn Bohling (2013-14 & 2012-13, Salem Hills High School), Jordan Theurer (2011-12, Bear River High School), MaCauley Flint (2010-11, Roy High School), Tori Almond (2009-10, Bingham High School), Shelbi Tyteca (2008-09, Viewmont High School), Tori Almond (2007-08, Bingham High School), and Cyd Allen (2006-07, Taylorsville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Cambrie 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.

###