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**CARAVEL ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Nicole Marcon of Caravel Academy as its 2017-18 Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year. Marcon is the fourth Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Caravel Academy.

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 Marcon as Delaware's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Marcon 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-6 junior catcher and first baseman led the Buccaneers (16-4) to the state semifinals this past season. Marcon produced a .520 batting average with eight home runs, 25 RBI and a slugging percentage of 1.140. A four-year varsity starter, she is a First Team All-State honoree.

Marcon has volunteered locally on behalf of the Horsey Family Youth Foundation, the Special Olympics and youth softball clinics.

Marcon has maintained a 3.96 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.

Marcon joins recent Gatorade Delaware Softball Players of the Year Avery Wheatley (2016-17, Delmar High School), Whitney DeMora (2015-16, Polytech High School), Regan Green (2014-15 & 2013-14, Laurel High School), Carolyn Szymanski (2012-13, Caravel Academy), Kim Smith (2011-12, Sussex Tech High School), Rachel Gillen (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Archmere Academy), Erika Brittingham (2007-08, Sussex Central High School), and Brandy Jester (2006-07, Sussex Central High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Nicole 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.