

**Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)**

**MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® IDAHO SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Lainey Lyle of Middleton High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year. Lyle is the first Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Middleton 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 Lyle as Idaho's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Lyle 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 Vikings (30-3) to the Class 4A state championship this past season. Lyle compiled a 16-2 record with a 0.53 ERA in the circle, along with a .463 batting average, five home runs and 36 RBI. She struck out 177 batters in 119 innings pitched. Lyle has been named the Class 4A Southern Idaho Conference Player of the Year each of the past three seasons.

Lyle has volunteered locally on behalf of the Christmas Giving Tree program.

Lyle has maintained a 3.43 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.

Lyle joins recent Gatorade Idaho Softball Players of the Year Lexi Knauss (2016-17, Meridian High School), Bradie Fillmore (2015-16 & 2014-15, Eagle High School), Vanessa Shippy (2013-14, Lake City High School), Casey Stangel (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Lake City High School), Nickayla Skinner (2009-10 & 2008-09, Mountain Home High School), Joni Cook (2007-08, Eagle High School), and Britney Croner (2006-07, Bishop Kelly High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Lainey 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/>.