

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**GORHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Grace McGouldrick of Gorham High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year. McGouldrick is the first Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gorham 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 McGouldrick as Maine's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, McGouldrick 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-3 senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher had led the Rams (13-3) to the Class A state tournament at the time of her selection. McGouldrick batted .692 (27-for-39) with five home runs, 19 RBI, 17 walks, 28 runs scored, a .793 on-base percentage and a 1.590 slugging percentage through 16 games. In the circle, McGouldrick compiled a 5-3 record with a 1.82 earned run average, striking out 114 batters and walking just 18 in 73 innings pitched. A two-time Southwestern Maine Activities Association First-Team All-Star and member of the 2017 Portland Press Herald Sunday Telegram All-State Team, McGouldrick recorded four shutouts and a no-hitter entering the postseason.

A National Honor Society member and two-time team All-SMAA selection in both field hockey and indoor track, McGouldrick has volunteered locally at an animal shelter and with the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. She has also donated her time to the Relay for Life and as a coach at youth softball and field hockey clinics.

McGouldrick has maintained a 90.39 average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Maine 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.

McGouldrick joins recent Gatorade Maine Softball Players of the Year Jessica Brown (2016-17, Portland High School), Kirsten Pelletier (2015-16, Messalonskee High School), Jen Jones (2014-15, Sanford High School), Alyssa Williamson (2013-14, Scarborough High School), Sonja Morse (2012-13, Cony High School), Julia Geaumont (2011-12, Thornton Academy), Alexis Bogdanovich (2010-11, South Portland High School), Sam Bedore (2009-10, Bangor High School), Hannah Hill (2008-09 & 2007-08, Fryeburg Academy), and Kelsey Griffin (2006-07, Scarborough High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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