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**CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® NEVADA 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 Tatum Spangler of Coronado High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year. Spangler is the first Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Coronado 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 Spangler as Nevada's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Spangler 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-9 senior left-handed pitcher led the Cougars (26-10) to the regional finals this past season. Spangler posted a 13-6 record with a 1.06 ERA in the circle, along with a .625 batting average, 10 home runs and 52 RBI. She struck out 172 batters in 105.2 innings pitched. The state record-holder for career hits, Spangler earned Sunrise League Pitcher of the Year honors for the second time in addition to being selected First Team All-State for the third time, and she was named The Las Vegas Sun Female Athlete of the Year.

A mentor for freshmen in her school, Spangler has volunteered locally on behalf of Miracle League Las Vegas, the Special Olympics, a food pantry and youth softball camps.

Spangler has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Spangler joins recent Gatorade Nevada Softball Players of the Year Julia Jensen (2016-17 & 2014-15, Reed High School), Sam Pochop (2015-16, Rancho High School), Heather Bowen (2013-14 & 2011-12, Centennial High School), Savannah Horvath (2012-13, Centennial High School), Melissa McCormick (2010-11, Palo Verde High School), Karlyn Jones (2009-10, Spanish Springs High School), Chelsea Cohen (2008-09, Reed High School), and Mallary Darby (2007-08 & 2006-07, Spanish Springs High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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