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**RAMSEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Victoria Sebastian of Ramsey High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year. Sebastian is the first Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ramsey 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 Sebastian as New Jersey's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Sebastian 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-5 junior left-handed pitcher had led the Rams (24-1) to the sectional finals at the time of her selection. Sebastian owned a 21-1 record with a 0.42 ERA in the circle, along with a .613 batting average and 27 RBI through 25 games. She had struck out 203 batters in 135 innings pitched. Sebastian is a First Team All-State, All-County and All-League honoree and was named North Jersey Player of the Year as a sophomore.

A peer tutor in her school, Sebastian has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home, a soup kitchen and youth softball clinics.

Sebastian has maintained a weighted 4.53 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.

Sebastian joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Softball Players of the Year Julie Rodriguez (2016-17, Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan), Kelsey Oh (2015-16 & 2014-15, Mount Saint Dominic Academy), Steph Thomas (2013-14, Immaculate Heart Academy), Allyson Frei (2012-13, High Point Regional High School), Kelsey Dominik (2011-12, Kingsway Regional High School), Emily Bausher (2010-11, New Egypt High School), Lauren Gaskill (2009-10, Rancocas Valley Regional High School), Brittany O'Donnell (2008-09 & 2007-08, Red Bank Catholic High School), and Lyndsey PeQueen (2006-07, Toms River High School East) among the state's list of former award winners.

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