

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**FRED T. FOARD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH CAROLINA 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 Abby Settlemyre of Fred T. Foard High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade North Carolina Softball Player of the Year. Settlemyre is the second Gatorade North Carolina Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fred T. Foard 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 Settlemyre as North Carolina's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Settlemyre 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-4 senior shortstop led the Tigers to a 20-4 record and the Class 2A quarterfinals this past season. Settlemyre produced a .698 batting average with eight triples, 26 stolen bases and 41 runs scored. A two-time Conference Player of the Year, she was an All-District and All-State honoree each of the past three seasons.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and her school's student leadership club, Settlemyre has volunteered locally on behalf of clothing-donation drives, Habitat for Humanity, youth softball camps and a middle school tutoring program.

Settlemyre has maintained a weighted 4.62 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Settlemyre joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Softball Players of the Year Mia Davidson (2016-17 & 2015-16, Orange High School), Mary Williams (2014-15, Cape Fear High School), Vada Sherrill (2013-14, Alexander Central High School), Lexi Shubert (2012-13 & 2011-12, Fred T. Foard High School), Chelsea Wilkinson (2010-11 & 2009-10, Alexander Central High School), Tisha Mahon (2008-09, North Davidson), Chelsea Leonard (2007-08, Central Davidson), and Ashton Ward (2006-07, Butler) among the state's list of former award winners.

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