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**PRYOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Olivia Rains of Pryor High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Player of the Year. Rains is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pryor 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 Rains as Oklahoma's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Rains 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-11 junior right-handed pitcher led the Tigers (38-4) to the Class 5A state semifinals this past season. Rains compiled a 31-3 record with a 1.24 ERA in the circle to go with a .461 batting average, six home runs and 53 RBI. She struck out 260 batters in 208.1 innings pitched, surrendering just 42 hits. The district Player of the Year, Rains has twice been named Tulsa World Player of the Year.

Rains has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, food-donation drives and youth softball programs.

Rains has maintained a 3.80 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.

Rains joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Players of the Year Sydney Sherrill (2016-17, Southmoore High School), Makenzie Flewellen (2015-16, Drumright High School), Jayden Chestnut (2014-15, Mustang High School), Katelyn Brown (2013-14, Southmoore High School), Jessica Walker (2012-13, Grove High School), Darcy Taylor (2011-12, Jenks High School), Whitney Robinson (2010-11, Carl Albert High School), Ashley Paxton (2009-10, Mustang), Chelsea Lyon (2008-09, Broken Arrow Senior), Kasha Kolb (2007-08, Chelsea), and Misty Flesher (2006-07, Lone Grove) among the state's list of former award winners.

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