

**Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)**

**SETON LASALLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Lexi Wagner of Seton LaSalle Catholic High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year. Wagner is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Seton LaSalle Catholic 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 Wagner as Pennsylvania's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Wagner 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-6 senior shortstop and outfielder led the Rebels (15-3) to the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League quarterfinals this past season. Wagner produced a .680 batting average with 14 home runs, 39 RBI and a 1.800 slugging percentage. The WPIAL Class 2A Player of the Year, she was also a First Team All-State selection.

A peer tutor in her school and a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, Wagner has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth sports programs.

Wagner has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Wagner joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Morgan Ryan (2016-17, Hempfield Area High School), Maggie Balint (2015-16 , 2014-15 & 2013-14, Avon Grove High School), Alexis Bower (2012-13, Williamsport High School), Christy Von Pusch (2011-12, Radnor High School), Lauren Walker (2010-11 & 2009-10, Central York High School), Nicole Smith (2008-09, Milton Area), Alexa Bryson (2007-08, Greater Latrobe), and Trish Melvin (2006-07, Vincentian Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

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