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**SPANISH FORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Jordyn Bate of Spanish Fork High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year. Bate is the second Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spanish Fork 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 Bate as Utah's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bate 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 left-handed pitcher and outfielder batted .566 with 19 home runs and 64 runs batted in this past season, leading the Dons (27-3) to the Class 4A state championship game. Bate cranked 11 doubles, scored 55 runs and compiled a .636 on-base percentage and a 1.272 slugging percentage. In the circle, Bate owned a 14-2 mark with a 1.52 earned run average and 151 strikeouts against just nine walks in 97 innings pitched. A two-time Class 4A All-State selection, she won three state titles in four years and concluded her prep softball career with 32 home runs and 166 runs batted in.

Bate has volunteered locally with the Hirsche Smiles Foundation, collecting and donating toothbrushes and toothpaste for families in Guatemala. She has also donated her time as a peer tutor for students with special needs and as part of multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group.

Bate has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at Salt Lake Community College 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.

Bate joins recent Gatorade Utah Softball Players of the Year Cambrie Hazel (2016-17, Spanish Fork High School), Taylei Williams (2015-16, Juab High School), Kaycie Jensen (2014-15, Springville High School), Kirtlyn Bohling (2013-14 & 2012-13, Salem Hills High School), Jordan Theurer (2011-12, Bear River High School), MaCauley Flint (2010-11, Roy High School), Tori Almond (2009-10, Bingham), Shelbi Tyteca (2008-09, Viewmont), Tori Almond (2007-08, Bingham), and Cyd Allen (2006-07, Taylorsville) among the state's list of former award winners.

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