

## FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (May 30, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Nicole May of Foothill High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade California Softball Player of the Year**. May is the first Gatorade California Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Foothill 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 May as California's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, May 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 Falcons to a 28-0 record and the North Coast Section Division 1 Tournament championship this past season. May finished with a 24-0 record, a 0.32 ERA and 246 strikeouts against just 13 walks in 151 innings pitched. Ranked as the nation's No. 10 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Softball America, May also batted .463 with five home runs, 27 RBI and a .744 slugging percentage. The 2018 Prep2Prep North Coast Section Sophomore of the Year, she fired a one-hitter and hit a two-run home run in a 2-0 win over Heritage High in the sectional title game.

An avid photographer, May has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach. "The bigger the game, the better Nicole plays," said Matt Sweeney, head coach of Foothill High. "Nicole is unbelievably tough. That is how Nicole competes, in the circle and at the plate."

May has maintained a weighted 3.77 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma beginning in the fall of 2020.

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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

May joins recent Gatorade California Softball Players of the Year Megan Faraimo (2017-18, Cathedral Catholic High School), Taylor Dockins (2016-17, Norco High School), Madilyn "Bubba" Nickles (2015-16, Merced High School), Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School) and Taylor McQuillin (2013-14, Mission Viejo High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," May also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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