

BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 30, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Allie Skaggs of Ballard High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year**. Skaggs is the fourth Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ballard 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 Skaggs as Kentucky'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, Skaggs 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-8 junior shortstop batted .571 with 18 home runs and 64 RBI this past season, leading the Bruins (28-11) to the 7th Region semifinals. Skaggs also clubbed 18 doubles, scored 55 runs and drew 31 walks, posting a .664 on-base percentage and slugging 1.250. A 2018 First Team All-State selection, she concluded her junior year with 41 career home runs as a prep.

A member of her local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Skaggs has volunteered with Best Buddies and as a youth softball coach in her community. "Allie Skaggs is as dangerous a player as I've seen, defensively and offensively," said Brian Deem, head coach of Boyle County High.

Skaggs has maintained a weighted 4.17 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at the University of Arizona 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.

Skaggs joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Softball Players of the Year Montana Fouts (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2015-16, East Carter High School), and Megan Hensley (2014-15 & 2013-14, Paul G. Blazer High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Skaggs 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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