

YORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE 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 **Abby Orso of York High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year**. Orso is the first Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from York 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 Orso as Maine'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, Orso 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 right-handed pitcher had led the Wildcats to an 11-2 record at the time of her selection. A First Team All-Conference selection as a freshman, Orso compiled an 11-2 record with a 1.17 ERA through 13 games in 2019, along with a .556 batting average, nine home runs, 19 RBI and 31 runs scored. She fanned 134 batters in 84 innings pitched.

Orso has volunteered locally on behalf of school anti-drug initiatives and youth sports programs. "Abby Orso is an outstanding pitcher and maybe even more impressive as a hitter," said Kevin Fox, head coach at Wells High. "She'll take a walk if you don't give her something to hit, and she'll make it count if you do."

Orso has maintained an A average 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. 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.

Orso joins recent Gatorade Maine Softball Players of the Year Grace McGouldrick (2017-18, Gorham High School), Jessica Brown (2016-17, Portland High School), Kirsten Pelletier (2015-16, Messalonskee High School), Jen Jones (2014-15, Sanford High School) and Alyssa Williamson (2013-14, Scarborough High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Orso 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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