

DEPOSIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Makenzie Stiles of Deposit High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year**. Stiles is the first Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Deposit 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 Stiles as New York'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, Stiles 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 right-handed pitcher had led the Lumberjacks to a 17-0 record and the sectional quarterfinals at the time of her selection. Stiles compiled a 17-0 record with a 0.06 ERA and batted .433 with 26 RBI through 17 games. The state record-holder for career perfect games (15), she surrendered just 21 hits and seven walks in 111 innings, fanning 269 batters entering the sectional round of eight. She has captured State Class D Player of the Year honor four times.

Stiles has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball programs and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. "Makenzie Stiles is far and away the most dominant softball player around," said Kurt Spangenberg head coach at Delaware Academy. "The no-hitters and perfect games speak for themselves, but she's not a one trick pony; she's also strong at the plate."

Stiles has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh beginning 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.

Stiles joins recent Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Calista Phippen (2017-18 & 2016-17, Ichabod Crane High School), Sarah Cornell (2015-16, W.T. Clarke High School), Toni Polk (2014-15, Niagara Falls High School) and Julia DiMartino (2013-14, Brockport High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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