

MARIST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 **Ariel Carlson of Marist Catholic High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year**. Carlson is the second Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Marist Catholic 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 Carlson as Oregon'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, Carlson 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 senior right-handed pitcher batted .708 with 20 home runs and 56 RBI this past season, leading the Spartans (23-5) to the Class 4A state quarterfinals. Carlson scored 56 runs, stole 11 bases and drew 35 walks to compile an .808 on-base percentage and a 1.815 slugging percentage. She concluded her prep softball career with 72 home runs, which ranks third in national history, and 252 RBI, which ranks fourth.

Carlson has volunteered locally on a campaign that raised more than \$60,000 for the neonatal intensive care unit at the PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend. A photographer for the Marist school newspaper, she has also donated her time as a youth softball coach. "Ariel is an outstanding all-around player who has sacrificed playing infield, which is her favorite, to pitch for our Marist team," said Missy Doerr, head coach of Marist High. "She has done an outstanding job for us both in the circle and in the batter's box."

Carlson has maintained a weighted 3.55 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Two-time winner Carlson joins Gatorade Oregon Softball Players of the Year Lauren Burke (2016-17 & 2015-16, Marist Catholic High School), Emily Sorem (2014-15, Tualatin High School) and Katie Donovan (2013-14, South Salem High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

###