

SPRING-FORD AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Brianna Peck of Spring-Ford Area High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year**. Peck is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spring-Ford Area 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 Peck as Pennsylvania'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, Peck 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-9 sophomore right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Rams to a 23-0 record at the time of her selection. Peck compiled a 13-0 record with a 0.61 ERA along with a .525 batting average, 11 home runs and 31 RBI through 23 games. She surrendered just 21 hits and 19 walks in 68.2 innings pitched, while striking out 124 batters. Peck was a First Team All-League and Second Team All-State selection as a freshman.

Peck has volunteered locally on behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and youth softball teams. "Brianna Peck is a very talented softball player, both offensively and defensively," said Kim Musselman, head coach at Boyertown High. "She can compete as both a shortstop and pitcher. She embodies what a softball player should be."

Peck has maintained a B average in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school his 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.

Peck joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Lexi Wagner (2017-18, Seton LaSalle Catholic High School), Morgan Ryan (2016-17, Hempfield Area High School), and Maggie Balint (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Avon Grove High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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