

THE KING'S ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Regan Weekly of The King's Academy** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year**. Weekly is the first Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from The King's Academy.

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 Weekly as Tennessee'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, Weekly 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-4 senior second baseman led the Lions (38-6) to the Division II-A state championship this past season. Weekly batted .566 with seven triples, 21 home runs and 70 RBI, compiling a slugging percentage of 1.196. An Extra Innings Softball All-American, Weekly is a four-time All-State honoree and was also named District Player of the Year.

Weekly has donated her time by delivering food to needy families, and has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility and youth softball programs. "Regan Weekly is the most complete softball player I've had the privilege to coach against over the past four seasons," said Jody Atwood, head coach at Lebanon High. "She possesses everything you want in a player: speed, power, strength, toughness, competitive greatness and leadership skills."

Weekly has maintained a 4.27 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Dartmouth College this fall to play softball.

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.

Weekly joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Softball Players of the Year Ashley Rogers (2017-18 & 2016-17, Meigs County High School), Brooklin Lee (2015-16 & 2014-15, Dickson County High School), and Cori Jennings (2013-14, Gordonsville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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