

HALLETTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Rylee Trlicek of Hallettsville High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year**. Trlicek is the first Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hallettsville 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 Trlicek as Texas' best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Trlicek 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-3 senior left-handed pitcher had led the Brahmas to a 36-1 record and a berth in the Class 3A state semifinals at the time of her selection. Trlicek posted a 22-1 record with a 0.85 ERA entering the final four, striking out 243 batters against just 17 walks in 131 innings pitched. Ranked as the nation's No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2019 by Softball America, she batted .584 with seven home runs, 23 doubles and 53 RBI through 37 games. She also drew 48 walks en route to amassing a .722 on-base percentage and a 1.146 slugging percentage. A member of the USA Softball Junior National Team, she is a three-time First Team All-State selection.

The president of the Hallettsville student council, Trlicek has volunteered locally with Operation Christmas Child and as a youth softball coach. "Rylee is an absolute force on the softball field," said Johnny Lesak, head coach of Edna High. "She is a noticeable presence both in the circle and at the plate. She really is an example of what an elite player looks like."

Trlicek has maintained an A average in the classroom and has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Trlicek joins recent Gatorade Texas Softball Players of the Year Makinzy Herzog (2017-18, Ridge Point High School), Casey Dixon (2016-17, Willis High School), Maddie MacGrandle (2015-16, Frisco High School), Samantha Show (2014-15, East Bernard High School) and Randi Rupp (2013-14, Barbers Hill High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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