

**PICKENS ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 28, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Shelby Lowe of Pickens Academy as its 2019-20 Gatorade Alabama Softball Player of the Year. Lowe is the first Gatorade Alabama Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pickens 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 Lowe as Alabama'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, Lowe joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, 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 senior left-handed pitcher posted an 8-0 record with a 0.76 ERA this spring, striking out 97 batters with just six walks in 46 innings pitched, while also batting .429 before the remainder of the season was cancelled. A five-time All-State honoree, Lowe was selected to the PGF 18U Premier All-Tournament team last summer, recording a 4-1 record and a 1.22 ERA in tournament play. She was also named the AISA Pitcher of the Year after a 2019 high school season in which she compiled a 19-4 record, with a 0.14 ERA and 336 strikeouts in 150 innings pitched. Lowe ranks as the nation's No. 9 prospect in the Class of 2020 by Softball America.

A devoted member of her church community and a basketball standout, Lowe has volunteered locally with her school's Student Government Association. "Shelby Lowe is and has been one of the best, if not the best, pitcher in Alabama and Mississippi for the past few years," said Larry Lippert, head coach at Russell Christian Academy. "We've played against her at least twice a year for the past five years. She has command of every pitch she throws and she never seems to get tired. She's also a great hitter who can hit for average and for power."

Lowe has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Auburn University.

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 and 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.

Lowe joins Gatorade Alabama Softball Players of the Year Kaylyn Dismukes (2018-19, Holtville High School), Johnson (2017-18, Brantley High School), Kendall Beth Sides (2016-17, Sumiton Christian High School), Ashlee Swindle (2015-16, Curry High School), and Lacey Sumerlin (2014-15, Baker High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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.