

**ST. ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 Tiare Jennings of St. Anthony High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade California Softball Player of the Year. Jennings is the first Gatorade California Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Anthony 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 Jennings as California'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, Jennings 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-8 senior shortstop returned from an injury-plagued junior year to spark the Saints to an 8-0 start in 2020 before the season was cancelled. Jennings posted a .710 batting average with 19 runs batted in, 18 runs scored, six home runs and a 1.483 slugging percentage this spring. The 2017 Southern Section Division 6 Player of the Year as a freshman, Jennings is ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Extra Inning Softball. She led the OC Batbusters to a fifth-place finish at the PGF National Championships last July, then hit 16 home runs over 36 games for the Batbusters during this past fall.

A member of her school's campus ministry, Jennings has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach. "Tiare Jennings delivers in all facets of the game," said Mike Stith, Jennings' summer ball coach with the OC Batbusters. "Offensively she is the most feared power hitter in her class and defensively she carries a forceful presence on the dirt. She is the adult on the field at all times."

Jennings has maintained a weighted 4.25 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma.

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.

Jennings joins Gatorade California Softball Players of the Year Nicole May (2018-19, Foothill High School), Megan Faraimo (2017-18, Cathedral Catholic High School), Taylor Dockins (2016-17, Norco High School), Madilyn "Bubba" Nickles (2015-16, Merced High School), and Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland 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.

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