

**BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Erin Coffel of Bremen High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year. Coffel is the first Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bremen 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 Coffel as Indiana'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, Coffel 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-7 senior and shortstop led the Indiana Magic Gold to a third-place finish at the PGF Premier 16U Nationals last summer and fall, batting .432 with 18 home runs and 58 RBI. The state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Coffel concluded her prep career with a .627 average, 164 RBI and a state-record 50 home runs. An Extra Inning Softball First Team All-American, she is ranked as the nation's No. 14 prospect in the Class of 2020 by Softball America. Coffel led the Lions (29-2) to the Class 2A state championship in 2019, hitting .663 with 19 home runs, 52 RBI and a 2.217 OPS.

Coffel has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics as well as an assisted living facility and youth sports camps. "Erin Coffel is the best girls softball player I've seen, coaching and watching softball for over 35 years," said Bremen coach Mike Huppert. "She's a joy to be around, works extremely hard to improve every day, and her intensity is infectious to all, including her coaches."

Coffel has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky.

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.

Two-time winner Coffel joins Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Ashley Prange (2017-18, New Palestine High School), Alexis Holloway (2016-17, Crown Point High School) and Miranda Elish (2015-16 & 2014-15, Crown Point 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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