

**PULASKI COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Riley Hull of Pulaski County High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year. Hull is the first Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pulaski County 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 Hull as Kentucky'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, Hull 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-5 junior and catcher was named the best player in the state by MaxPreps.com during the 2020 preseason. Hull was the starting catcher for the Tennessee Mojo as the club team won the Junior Olympic Cup 16-and-under tournament last July; she posted a .403 batting average with 41 runs batted in and 16 doubles for the Mojo throughout the summer and fall against elite-level national competition. As a sophomore for Pulaski County, Hull was named the state's Johnny Bench Award winner, given to the top catcher in Kentucky. She enters her senior year with 115 hits and zero strikeouts in her prep softball career.

Hull has volunteered locally at a women's shelter and as a youth softball coach. "Riley is a great receiver, great arm and knows the game," said Brooks Cherry, Hull's summer ball coach with the Tennessee Mojo. "She is an asset to her pitchers. She knows how to attack the hitters."

Hull has maintained a weighted 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Mississippi State University beginning in the fall of 2021.

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.

Hull joins Gatorade Kentucky Softball Players of the Year Allie Skaggs (2018-19, Ballard High School), Montana Fouts (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2015-16, East Carter High School), and Megan Hensley (2014-15, Paul G. Blazer 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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