

**SHERWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Mac Morgan of Sherwood High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Missouri Softball Player of the Year. Morgan is the second Gatorade Missouri Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sherwood 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 Morgan as Missouri'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, Morgan 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-10 junior and right-handed pitcher led the Marksmen (26-3) to the Class 2 state championship this past season, posting a 26-3 record with a 0.12 ERA. Morgan surrendered just 29 hits and issued 34 walks in 175.1 innings pitched, while striking out 366 batters. A First Team All-State selection, she also batted .590 with 14 home runs and 57 RBI, compiling an OPS of 1.980.

A member of her school's Future Farmers of America chapter, Morgan has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball programs. "I've coached here for the last 24 years and I can't think of a more complete and dominant player than Mac Morgan," said Darrell Jeffries, head coach at Lafayette County High. "She's both the best pitcher and the best hitter we saw all year. She's just a phenomenal softball player."

Morgan has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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 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.

Morgan joins Gatorade Missouri Softball Players of the Year Makenna Kliethermes (2018-19, Blair Oaks High School), Gabi Deters (2017-18, Bowling Green High School), Madison Preston (2016-17, Centralia High School), Olivia Kinsey (2015-16, Park Hill South High School), and Brittany Nimmo (2014-15, Ozark 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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