

**GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 28, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Anna Toon of Great Falls High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Montana Softball Player of the Year. Toon is the first Gatorade Montana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Great Falls 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 Toon as Montana'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, Toon 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10 senior, right-handed pitcher and shortstop was named the best player in the state by MaxPreps.com during the 2020 preseason. Toon helped lead her NorCal Firecrackers 18-and-under ASA club team to a runner-up finish at the 2019 Triple Crown World Series in July. The 2019 North Central Montana Player of the Year, Toon led the Bison to the 2019 Class AA state championship. She concluded her prep softball career with a .448 batting average and 15 home runs at the plate, while earning 20 wins and striking out 165 batters in the circle.

Toon has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through the Great Falls High National Honor Society. "Anna is a dominant pitcher with great command and unlimited endurance," said Craig Volpe, Toon's summer ball coach with the NorCal Firecrackers.

Toon has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Montana.

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 Toon joins Gatorade Montana Softball Players of the Year Erin Hocker (2017-18, Great Falls High School), Tristin Achenbach (2016-17, C.M. Russell High School), Tristin Achenbach (2015-16, Conrad-Choteau Co-op Team), Morgan Ray (2014-15, Frenchtown 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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