

**EXETER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Sam Wiberg of Exeter High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year. Wiberg is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Exeter 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 Wiberg as New Hampshire'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, Wiberg 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 right-handed pitcher was named a PGF Northeast Region All-American in 2020. Wiberg compiled a 30-10 record in her prep career, with a 2.06 ERA and 397 strikeouts in 262 innings pitched, while also batting .469. The Division 1 Pitcher of the Year. She led the Blue Hawks to their first state championship in 2019, posting an 18-1 record with a 1.49 ERA and 261 strikeouts in 127 innings. Wiberg hit .513 at the plate with five home runs and 30 RBI as a junior.

Wiberg has volunteered locally on behalf of food-donation drives and youth softball programs. "Sam is the best softball player in our program in the past 25 years, and we can only speculate what she could have accomplished as a senior," said Exeter coach Kristen Morissette. "As a coach, you get a player like her once in a career."

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.

Wiberg joins Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Players of the Year Madison Labrie (2018-19, Mascenic Regional High School), Abby Rochette (2017-18, Concord High School), Andi Nelson (2016-17, Londonderry High School), Jaime Cleasby (2015-16, Windham High School), and Kaycee Carbone (2014-15, Alvirne 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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