

**MAHOPAC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Shannon Becker of Mahopac High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year. Becker is the first Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mahopac 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 Becker as New York'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, Becker 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 6-foot junior right-handed pitcher helped the East Cobb Bullets to the Triple Crown/USA 16U national championship last summer and was named a First Team All-American by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. Becker ranks as the nation's No. 22 prospect in the Class of 2021 by Extra Inning Softball. She posted a 19-4 record with a 0.39 ERA for the Indians (19-4) during the 2019 high school season, with 369 strikeouts and just 28 walks in 163 innings pitched. Becker also batted .420 with 12 RBI.

Also a basketball and soccer standout, Becker is a member of her school's Student Athletic Council and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and youth sports programs. "Shannon is a once-in-a-lifetime-athlete," said Mahopac High School coach Cristina Giansante. "She's a leader and a role model and her work ethic is unlike any other athlete I've seen. It's been wonderful watching her grow into a dominant, unbelievable, outstanding athlete."

Becker has maintained an A average 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.

Becker joins Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Makenzie Stiles (2018-19, Deposit High School), Calista Phippen (2017-18 & 2016-17, Ichabod Crane High School), Sarah Cornell (2015-16, W.T. Clarke High School), and Toni Polk (2014-15, Niagara Falls 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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