

**MCNARY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 Taylor Ebbs of McNary High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year. Ebbs is the first Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from McNary 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 Ebbs as Oregon'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, Ebbs 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-9 junior shortstop had a strong fall season for her Northwest Bullets ASA 18-and-under club, posting a .414 batting average and a .528 on-base percentage against elite-level national competition. The 2019 Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year for McNary, Ebbs was a 2019 First Team All-State selection. Ranked as the nation's No. 49 recruit in the Class of 2021 by Extra Inning Softball, she concluded her junior year with a career batting average of .596 along with 99 hits, 96 runs batted in, 73 runs scored and a .970 slugging percentage.

Ebbs has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank, and she has donated her time both as a student athletic trainer and as a youth softball coach. "Taylor is incomparable in her abilities as a player, teammate and leader," said Kevin Wise, head coach of McNary High School. "Her ability to play the game is borne out by her statistics and awards."

Ebbs has maintained a weighted 3.59 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Ebbs joins Gatorade Oregon Softball Players of the Year Ariel Carlson (2018-19, Marist Catholic High School), Lauren Burke (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2015-16, Marist Catholic High School), and Emily Sorem (2014-15, Tualatin 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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