

**HAZLETON AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Marissa Trivelpiece of Hazleton Area High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year. Trivelpiece is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hazleton Area 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 Trivelpiece as Pennsylvania'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, Trivelpiece 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 senior shortstop was named a PGF Northeast Region All-American in 2020 and concluded her prep career with a .456 average, 23 home runs and 101 RBI. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Trivelpiece ranks as the nation's No. 99 prospect in the Class of 2020 by Softball America. She led the Cougars (23-2) to the Class 6A state finals in 2019, batting .474 with 12 home runs, 45 RBI and a 1.673 OPS.

Also a basketball standout, Trivelpiece has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school reading initiative, a suicide-prevention program and youth sports teams. "I can honestly say, without any hesitation, that Marissa is the best all-around student-athlete that I have ever coached," said Hazleton Area High School coach Bob Bertoni. "Her leadership is second only to her playing ability. She's an unselfish player who puts team success first."

Trivelpiece has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Michigan State University.

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.

Trivelpiece joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Brianna Peck (2018-19, Spring-Ford Area High School), Lexi Wagner (2017-18, Seton LaSalle Catholic High School), Morgan Ryan (2016-17, Hempfield Area High School), and Maggie Balint (2015-16 & 2014-15), 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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