

**MAY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Kylee Gleason of May River High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year. Gleason is the first Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from May River 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 Gleason as South Carolina'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, Gleason 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-8 senior shortstop batted .762 with four RBI, six stolen bases, 11 runs scored and a 1.677 OPS in seven games this spring before the remainder of the season was cancelled. An All-State selection, Gleason compiled a .555 career batting average with 134 stolen bases. She hit .683 in the 2019 high school season, with two home runs, 21 RBI, 41 runs scored and 42 stole bases.

A devoted member of her church youth group, Gleason has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and Rainbows Edge Animal Refuge. "Kylee Gleason is just ridiculously talented," said Dana Fusetti, Carolina Elite coach. "She's got a great arm, tremendous wheels and a great bat. She's known as a slap hitter, but she's really a triple threat, who can hit you a home run if she has to. She's such a strong player to have on any roster."

Gleason has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina.

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.

Gleason joins Gatorade South Carolina Softball Players of the Year Bailey Betenbaugh (2018-19 & 2016-17, Union County High School), Karly Heath (2017-18, North Augusta High School), and Cayla Drotar (2015-16 & 2014-15 Hartsville 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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