

**THE COLONY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Jayda Coleman of The Colony High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year. Coleman is the first Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from The Colony 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 Coleman as Texas'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, Coleman 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-10 senior shortstop and left-handed pitcher was one of only two high-school athletes on the 2019 USA Softball Junior Women's National Team that won the U19 World Championships in August. Coleman compiled a .432 batting average and a .510 on-base percentage with 13 steals for Team USA. Through a 15-3-1 start by the Cougars this spring, Coleman batted .717 with 42 runs scored, 41 steals, 29 RBI and 10 triples. She also was 12-0 in the circle with a 0.89 ERA along with 75 strikeouts in 55 innings pitched before the season was cancelled. A three-time MaxPreps First Team All-American, she concluded her prep softball career with 279 hits, 261 runs scored, 209 stolen bases and a .702 batting average.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Coleman volunteers on behalf of PALS, which works with special needs children. She also participates in helping youth competitors train for the Special Olympics in addition to serving as an instructor in the Texas Glory club organization. "Jayda Coleman is a polished, cerebral player who is so smooth and poised that she makes everything look easy," says Brentt Eads, President/Executive Editor of Extra Inning Softball. "She always seems to be two steps ahead of the play and has great instincts and instantaneous decision-making abilities. She's one of the smartest and most intuitive softball players I've ever seen."

Coleman has maintained a weighted 3.63 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma.

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.

Coleman joins Gatorade Texas Softball Players of the Year Rylee Trlicek (2018-19, Hallettsville High School), Makinzy Herzog (2017-18, Ridge Point High School), Casey Dixon (2016-17, Willis High School), Maddie MacGrandle (2015-16, Frisco High School), and Samantha Show (2014-15, East Bernard 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](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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