GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kynzie Mohl of Glacier High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Montana Softball Player of the Year**. Mohl is the first Gatorade Montana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Glacier 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 Mohl as Montana'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, Mohl joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Cat 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 catcher and right-handed pitcher posted a .634 batting average with 18 home runs this past season, leading the Wolfpack (23-5) to the Class AA state tournament. The Class AA Western Division Offensive Player of the Year, Mohl also collected 11 doubles, scored 45 runs and knocked in 67 runs while recording a .706 on-base percentage and a 1.451 slugging percentage. In the circle, the two-time First Team All-State selection compiled an 8-2 record with a 4.30 earned run average.

Mohl has volunteered locally with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Montana and with the Glacier High Freshman Mentor program. She has also donated her time as a youth softball and volleyball coach. "Kynzie is one of those special players who learned the power of discipline and dedication early on in her softball career," said Abby Connolly, head coach of Glacier High. "This has paid dividends both at the plate and defensively."

Mohl has maintained a 3.51 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Montana this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Mohl joins recent Gatorade Montana Softball Players of the Year Anna Toon (2019-20 & 2018-19, Great Falls High School), Erin Hocker (2017-18, Great Falls High School), and Tristin Achenbach (2016-17, C.M. Russell High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Mohl has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Mohl is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.