

**SPANISH SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 18, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Hailey McLean of Spanish Springs High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year**. McLean is the third Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spanish Springs 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 McLean as Nevada'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, McLean 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-8 junior right-handed pitcher led the Cougars (19-1) to the Class 5A Northern Nevada championship this past season. McLean posted a 16-1 record with a 1.01 ERA, striking out 174 and walking just 29 in 111.1 innings pitched. The Northern Region MVP, she also batted .509 with two home runs and 23 RBI.

McLean has assisted teachers in their kindergarten classrooms and has volunteered locally on behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities and youth sports programs. "Hailey McLean was always dominant on the mound," said Samantha Puzey, head coach at Reno High. "She's also very tough to get out offensively, and she carries herself very well."

McLean has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

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 & 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.

McLean joins recent Gatorade Nevada Softball Players of the Year Kailee Luschar (2019-20, Carson High School), Ashley Ward (2018-19, Coronado High School), Tatum Spangler (2017-18, Coronado High School), and Julia Jensen (2016-17, Reed High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," McLean has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. McLean 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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