

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY SOFTBALL PLAYER OF
THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Madison McDougall of St. John Vianney High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes McDougall as New Jersey's best high school softball player and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress, TX), Alicia Hollowell (2001-02, Fairfield, CA) and Hannah Wells (2024-25, Coahoma, TX).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-7 senior right-handed pitcher had led the Lancers to a 27-0 record and a berth in the Non-Public South Jersey, Group A Tournament semifinals this spring. McDougall posted a 26-0 mark with a 0.29 ERA in the circle through 27 games, striking out 278 batters while walking just 15 in 146.1 innings. The state's 2023-24 Gatorade Player of the Year, the three-time First Team All-State selection owned a .607 batting average with 13 home runs, 20 doubles, 61 RBI and a 1.337 slugging percentage entering the final four.

The manager of the St. John Vianney High School football team, McDougall has volunteered locally as part of beautification projects and as a peer math tutor. She has also donated her time as a youth softball coach. "Madison is a game-changer as a presence in the circle and at the plate," said Nick Scalzo, head coach of Marlboro High School. "She's been lights out pitching-wise and also carries the team offensively."

McDougall has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at Monmouth University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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