

BOHEMIA MANOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 30, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Maddie Penta of Bohemia Manor High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year**. Penta is the first Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bohemia Manor 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 Penta as Maryland'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, Penta joins an elite alumni association of past state softball award-winners, 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 6-foot-1 junior right-handed pitcher led the Eagles to a 23-1 record and a third-straight Class 1A state championship this past season. Penta finished 21-0 record with a 0.11 ERA, striking out 299 batters and surrendering only 16 hits in 123 innings pitched. Ranked as the nation's No. 5 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Softball America, Penta batted .586 with nine home runs, 34 RBI and a 1.143 slugging percentage. She fired a no-hitter in Bo Manor's 8-0 win over Sparrows Point High in the title game, striking out 19.

Penta has volunteered locally collecting goods for those in need, and as a youth softball coach. "She's a good enough player to continually force coaching decisions on the opposite side," said Jeff Horton, head coach of Patterson Mill High. "I'm convinced that Bo Manor wouldn't have beaten us either time without her on the team."

Penta has maintained a weighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Auburn University beginning in the fall of 2020.

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. 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.

Penta joins recent Gatorade Maryland Softball Players of the Year Campbell Kline (2017-18, Severna Park High School), Kaitlin Beasley-Polko (2016-17, Leonardtown High School), Madison Aughinbaugh (2015-16, St. Mary's Ryken High School), Nicole Stockinger (2014-15, Sherwood High School) and Jordan Cargile (2013-14, Eastern Technical High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Penta also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

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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