

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

CHICAGO (May 28, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Maddie Penta of Bohemia Manor High School as its 2019-20 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 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2 senior and right-handed pitcher is ranked as the nation's No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Softball America. An All-Tournament selection at the 2019 Under-18 PGF Premier National Championships last summer, Penta struck out 58 batters in 39 innings pitched for the Pennsylvania Chaos against elite-level national competition. A three-time Class 1A state champion for Bohemia Manor, she concluded her prep softball career with a 49-1 record, a 0.07 earned run average and 762 strikeouts in only 321 innings pitched.

Penta has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and mentor. "Madison's work ethic toward the game of softball is beyond comparison," said Jill Lawson, head coach of Bohemia Manor High. "She is the type of player that after a two-and-a-half-hour practice will put in another two hours once everyone else has taken off their cleats. She knows the process of growth and what it takes to improve and she commits to it."

Penta has maintained a weighted 4.29 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at Auburn University.

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.

Two-time winner Penta joins 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), and Nicole Stockinger (2014-15, Sherwood 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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