

**SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Delaney Keith of Skyview High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year**. Keith is the first Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyview 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 Keith as Idaho'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, Keith 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 shortstop led the Hawks to a 23-8 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Keith posted a .670 batting average with 19 home runs, 77 runs batted in, 64 runs scored, 11 stolen bases and a 2.080 OPS. The 2021 Southern Idaho Conference Co-Player of the Year, she led the state in home runs and RBIs and struck out only four times in 122 plate appearances.

An accomplished saxophonist in her high school band, Keith has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and as a youth softball and basketball coach. "Delaney Keith is definitely a game-changer for Skyview," said Eric Zinn, head coach at Borah High. "She is one of the most electric players in the state. She's a fun player to watch as a fan, but speaking as a coach, she is very difficult to deal with."

Keith has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Coastal Carolina University beginning in the fall of 2022.

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.

Keith joins recent Gatorade Idaho Softball Players of the Year Gracie Walters (2019-20, Ridgevue High School), Kaylan Walker (2018-19, Rocky Mountain High School), Lainey Lyle (2017-18, Middleton High School), and Lexi Knauss (2016-17, Meridian High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Keith has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Keith 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.

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