

**RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 **Keagan Rothrock of Roncalli High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year**. Rothrock is the first Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roncalli 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 Rothrock as Indiana'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, Rothrock 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-10 sophomore right-handed pitcher led the Royals (31-2) to the Class 4A state championship this past season. Rothrock posted a 24-2 record with a 0.13 ERA, allowing 40 hits and just six walks in 160.1 innings pitched, while striking out 364 batters. A First Team All-State, All-Conference and All-County honoree, she also batted .442 with three home runs and 21 RBI. She was ranked as the nation's No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2023 by Extra Inning Softball and was selected to play in the Premier Girls Fastpitch Futures All-American Game in July.

Also a talented artist, Rothrock has volunteered locally on behalf of Servant's Heart of Indy, Riley Hospital for Children and youth softball programs. "I've never seen a pitcher like Keagan Rothrock in all my years of softball," said Harley Sinderson, head coach at Avon High. "Her pitching is remarkable and she keeps her composure very well. You can tell she's put a lot of time and effort into perfecting her pitches. She also has a great bat."

Rothrock has maintained a 4.03 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Rothrock joins recent Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Erin Coffel (2019-20 & 2018-19, Bremen High School), Ashley Prange (2017-18, New Palestine High School), and Alexis Holloway (2016-17, Crown Point High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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