

**PATTERSON MILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Madison Knight of Patterson Mill High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year**. Knight is the first Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Patterson Mill 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 Knight 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, Knight 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-11 junior right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Huskies to a 20-0 record and a berth in the Class 1A state semifinals at the time of her selection. Knight compiled a 12-0 mark in the circle with a 0.59 earned run average through 20 games. She had allowed just 17 hits and amassed 103 strikeouts in 59 innings pitched. Ranked as the nation's No. 23 recruit in the Class of 2022 by Extra Inning Softball, she posted a .591 batting average at the plate entering the semis with 11 home runs, 33 runs scored, 45 runs batted in and a 1.288 slugging percentage.

A member of her school's student government, Knight has volunteered locally as a math tutor and as a youth softball coach. "Madison Knight is an outstanding athlete," said Christine Mullin, head coach of North Harford High. "She has a work ethic that is second to none. In addition to being a force on the mound, her bat is outstanding."

Knight has maintained a weighted 3.89 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Syracuse 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.

Knight joins recent Gatorade Maryland Softball Players of the Year Maddie Penta (2019-20 & 2018-19, Bohemia Manor High School), Campbell Kline (2017-18, Severna Park High School), and Kaitlin Beasley-Polko (2016-17, Leonardtown High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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