

**WINNACUNNET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 18, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Nicole Basil of Winnacunnet High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year**. Basil is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Winnacunnet 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 Basil as New Hampshire'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, Basil 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-7 senior infielder and outfielder led the Warriors (18-4) to the Division 1 state quarterfinals this past season. Basil batted .467 with five home runs, 29 RBI, 36 runs scored and eight stolen bases. She is a two-time First Team All-State selection.

Basil has donated time to elderly well-being causes and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Hampton Youth Association and the Interact Club. "Nicole Basil is a great player and a strong hitter," said Sandy Dewing, head coach at Portsmouth High. "She's got a good arm and she's very versatile—she can play almost every position but pitcher. She's worked hard on her game over the years and has been a real leader for that team."

Basil has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Merrimack College 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.

Basil joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Players of the Year Sam Wiberg (2019-20, Exeter High School), Madison Labrie (2018-19, Mascenic Regional High School), Abby Rochette (2017-18, Concord High School), and Andi Nelson (2016-17, Londonderry High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Basil has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Basil 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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