

**MAHOPAC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Shannon Becker of Mahopac High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year**. Becker is the first Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mahopac 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 Becker as New York'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, Becker 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 6-foot senior right-handed pitcher led the Indians (19-1) to the Section 1 Class AA championship this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Becker posted a 19-1 record with a 0.00 ERA, surrendering just 29 hits and 19 walks in 139 innings pitched while striking out 286 batters. A two-time All-State honoree, she also batted .470 with 17 RBI. She was ranked as the nation's No. 9 prospect in the Class of 2021 by Extra Inning Softball.

Also a basketball and soccer standout, Becker is a member of her school's Student Athletic Council and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and youth sports programs. "Shannon Becker, to me, has been the most dominant softball presence in this area in the last decade," said Dale Chappelle, head coach at Walter Panas High. "She's destined to pitch at the most competitive level, and I would not doubt that she is the best high school pitcher in New York right now. Her numbers speak for themselves—she was at the point where most teams just didn't want to have Mahopac on their schedule."

Becker has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Two-time winner Becker joins recent Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Makenzie Stiles (2018-19, Deposit High School), and Calista Phippen (2017-18 & 2016-17, Ichabod Crane High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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