

**NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Mady Volpe of North Penn High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year**. Volpe is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Penn 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 Volpe as Pennsylvania'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, Volpe 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 senior right-handed pitcher had led the Knights (24-2) to the Class 6A semifinals at the time of her selection. Volpe had posted a 24-2 record with a 0.73 ERA through 26 games, striking out 316 batters in 162 innings pitched. A two-time First Team All-State honoree and a three-time All-League selection, she also batted .309 with 22 RBI.

Volpe has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry and youth softball programs. "Mady Volpe is clearly the best pitcher we faced, not just this year but over the past three years," said Bob Newman, head coach at Haverford High. "She has a great rise ball and change-up. She can really throw any pitch, but her rise ball is very tough to lay off."

Volpe has maintained a weighted 4.78 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Coastal Carolina University 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.

Volpe joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Marissa Trivelpiece (2019-20, Hazleton Area High School), Brianna Peck (2018-19, Spring-Ford Area High School), Lexi Wagner (2017-18, Seton LaSalle Catholic High School), and Morgan Ryan (2016-17, Hempfield Area High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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