

**CEDARBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Paytn Monticelli of Cedarburg High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Player of the Year**. Monticelli is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cedarburg 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 Monticelli as Wisconsin'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, Monticelli 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-2 junior right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Bulldogs to a 23-3 record and a berth in the Division 1 sectional tournament at the time of her selection. Monticelli compiled a 13-2 mark with a 0.71 earned run average in the circle, striking out 227 batters and walking just 17 in 98.1 innings pitched. At the plate, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Player of the Week for May 10 posted a .382 batting average with six home runs, 25 runs batted in and a 1.134 OPS.

A member of her school's Student Athlete Leadership Council, Monticelli has volunteered locally in association with HeartSafe Wisconsin, as a math tutor and she has donated her time as a youth softball coach. "Paytn Monticelli is always striving to make herself better," said Cedarburg head coach Mark Jessup. "She is always putting in time during off days, driving two hours for that extra pitching lesson or working with her strength and conditioning coach in preparation for her next game. The commitment and dedication that she displays is incredible."

Monticelli has maintained a 3.32 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison 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.

Monticelli joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Players of the Year Maddie Gardner (2019-20, Sun Prairie High School), and Syd Supple (2018-19, 2017-18, & 2016-17 Oshkosh North High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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