

**SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IDAHO SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 9, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Delaney Keith** of **Skyview High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year**. Keith is the first Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyview 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 Keith as Idaho’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, Keith 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-9 senior shortstop led the Hawks to a 30-2 record (16-0 in the Southern Idaho Conference) and the 5A state championship this past season. Keith, also the 2020-21 Gatorade Player of the Year in Idaho, batted .596 with 51 RBI, 13 home runs and a state-best 73 runs scored. She struck out just four times and stole 18 bases on the season.

Keith has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. She also has donated her time as an instructor for youth softball players. “She can hit the ball hard regardless of its location,” said Owyhee High School head coach Tess Martin. “Looking at her spray chart will show you that she hits the ball hard to any part of the field.”

Keith has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Coastal Carolina University.

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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Keith joins recent Gatorade Idaho Softball Players of the Year Gracie Walters (2019-20, Ridgevue High School), Kaylan Walker (2018-19, Rocky Mountain High School), and Lainey Lyle (2017-18, Middleton High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade’s “Play it Forward” platform, Keith has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Keith is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).