

**RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Keagan Rothrock** of **Roncalli High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year**. Rothrock is the first Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roncalli 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 Rothrock as Indiana'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, Rothrock 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.).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-10 junior right-handed pitcher had led the Royals to a perfect 32-0 record and a berth in the Class 4A state championship game. The state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Rothrock owned a 27-0 record with a 0.73 ERA entering the state final, having fanned 366 batters in 163.1 innings pitched through 32 games, while surrendering just 17 walks and 51 hits. A member of the USA Softball U18 National Team, she also batted .529 with 14 home runs and 54 RBI amassing an OPS of 1.628. Rothrock was a National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American, a MaxPreps First Team All-American and the Extra Inning Softball Player of the Year as a sophomore. She's ranked as the nation's No. 1 prospect in the Class of 2023 by Softball America.

Also a talented artist and an editor of her school's yearbook, Rothrock has volunteered locally on behalf of Servant's Heart of Indy, Riley Hospital for Children and Powerhouse Training softball camps. She also coaches youth players privately in hitting and pitching almost daily and donates most of her earnings to her church. "Keagan Rothrock is possibly the best pitcher ever in Indiana," said Ed Marcum, head coach at New Palestine High School. "There's a reason she's ranked as the No. 1 pitcher nationally. She is the real deal."

Rothrock has maintained a 4.06 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Rothrock joins recent Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Erin Coffel (2019-20 & 2018-19, Bremen High School), and Ashley Prange (2017-18, New Palestine 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, Rothrock 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. Rothrock 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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