

**PATTERSON MILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Madison Knight** of **Patterson Mill High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year**. Knight is the first Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Patterson Mill 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 Knight as Maryland'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, Knight 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 senior right-handed pitcher compiled a 21-1 record and a 0.32 earned run average in the circle this past season, leading the Huskies (21-1) to the Class 1A state championship game. Knight struck out 296 batters while allowing just 52 hits in 133 innings, pitching for a WHIP of 0.65. Ranked as the nation's No. 21 recruit in the Class of 2022 by Extra Inning Softball, she compiled a .554 batting average with 11 home runs, a .690 on-base percentage and a 1.321 slugging percentage.

A member of her school's student government, Knight has volunteered locally as a math tutor and as a youth softball coach. "Madison's dominance on the mound can be directly credited to her hard work and determination," said Kevin Medicus, head coach of Fallston High School. "Her outstanding command, velocity and sequence of pitches was just enough to keep us off-balance."

Knight has maintained a weighted 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Syracuse 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Two-time winner Knight joins recent Gatorade Maryland Softball Players of the Year Maddie Penta (2019-20 & 2018-19, Bohemia Manor High School), and Campbell Kline (2017-18, Severna Park 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, Knight 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. Knight 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.

###