

**CHANHASSEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Sydney Schwartz** of **Chanhassen High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Minnesota Softball Player of the Year**. Schwartz is the second Gatorade Minnesota Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Chanhassen 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 Schwartz as Minnesota'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, Schwartz 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 senior right-handed pitcher had led the Storm to a 21-1 record and a berth in the Class AAAA state tournament quarterfinals. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Schwartz had batted .593 with 13 home runs and 29 runs batted in through 22 games. Ranked as the nation's No. 54 recruit in the Class of 2022 by Extra Inning Softball, she recorded 10 stolen bases, posted a .718 on-base percentage and a 1.288 slugging percentage entering the postseason round of eight. She owned a 21-1 mark in the circle with a 1.24 earned run average and 209 strikeouts in 135.1 innings pitched.

Schwartz has volunteered locally as part of an elementary school literacy-outreach program and as a youth softball coach. "Sydney has been absolutely dominating in both the circle and the batter's box," said Joe Coenen, head coach of Chanhassen High School. "She is the most amazing teammate. Syd's simply the best we have had in our program."

Schwartz has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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 Schwartz joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Softball Players of the Year Allison Benning (2019-20, Stillwater Area High School), Ava Dueck (2018-19, Maple Grove Senior High School), and Emily Hansen (2017-18, Buffalo 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, Schwartz 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. Schwartz 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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