

**EXETER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Kristen Beebe** of **Exeter High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year**. Beebe is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Exeter 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 Beebe as New Hampshire'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, Beebe 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-5 junior right-handed pitcher had led the Blue Hawks (18-1) to the Division 1 state semifinals. Beebe compiled a 12-1 record with a 1.12 ERA in the regular season, striking out 144 batters in 75 innings pitched, while surrendering just 32 hits and 19 walks. A First Team All-State honoree, she was also named Division 1 Pitcher of the Year.

Beebe has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth softball programs. "Kristen Beebe is the top pitcher in the state," said Kevin Handy, head coach at Nashua South High School. "Her control and command on the mound is second to none. If you give her any kind of lead, she is going to come out with the win."

Beebe has maintained a weighted 4.41 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.

Beebe joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Players of the Year Nicole Basil (2020-21, Winnacunnet High School), Sam Wiberg (2019-20, Exeter High School), Madison Labrie (2018-19, Mascenic Regional High School), and Abby Rochette (2017-18, Concord 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, Beebe 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. Beebe 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).