

**LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Sarah Gordon** of **Lexington High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year**. Gordon is the first Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lexington 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 Gordon as South Carolina'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, Gordon 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-7 senior catcher led the Wildcats to a 27-4 record and a berth in the 5A state championship series this past spring. She batted .598 with 52 RBI, 19 home runs and 26 walks, while striking out just eight times. She was intentionally walked seven times in the postseason.

A National Honor Society student, Gordon has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and Unified sports. She also has donated her time to Students in Action, a Lexington High group that recently organized a donation drive for Ukraine. "She just sees the ball so well and there's not much room for mistakes to her—she will make you pay dearly," said White Knoll High School head coach April Farr. "She's a major team leader and she leads their defense behind the plate. She has an extremely strong arm and I know we could not steal on her."

Gordon has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. She has signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Louisville.

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.

Gordon joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Softball Players of the Year Haylee Whitesides (2020-21, Byrnes High School), Kylee Gleason (2019-20, May River High School), Bailey Betenbaugh (2018-19, Union County High School), and Karly Heath (2017-18, North Augusta 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, Gordon 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. Gordon 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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