

**HUNTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Ashtyn Danley** of **Huntland High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year**. Danley is the first Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Huntland 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 Danley as Tennessee'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, Danley 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-6 junior left-handed pitcher and center fielder led the Hornets (25-7) to the Class A state championship game this past season. Danley posted a 20-4 record with a 0.41 ERA, striking out 217 batters in 154.2 innings pitched. She also batted .659 with 15 home runs and 45 RBI, amassing an OPS of 2.114. A National Fastpitch Coaches Association Second Team All-American, Danley was named District MVP and is an All-State honoree. She was also MVP of the PGF Futures All-American Game and is ranked as the nation's No. 7 prospect in the Class of 2023 by Extra Inning Softball.

Danley is a member of her school's Beta Club and has volunteered locally on behalf of a softball program for children with disabilities. "Ashtyn Danley has every tool that you want a player to have," said Jason Evans, head coach at South Pittsburg High School, "Strong arm, good speed, strong bat, sees the ball and can control the plate both offensively and defensively. She exhibits great sportsmanship too."

Danley has maintained a 4.0 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.

Danley joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Softball Players of the Year Sydney Berzon (2020-21, Baylor School), Aubrey Barnhart (2019-20, Goodpasture Christian School), Regan Weekly (2018-19, The King's Academy), and Ashley Rogers (2017-18, Meigs County 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, Danley 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. Danley 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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