

**DELMARVA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 9, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kaylan Yoder** of **Delmarva Christian High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year**. Yoder is the first Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Delmarva Christian 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 Yoder as Delaware'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, Yoder joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jordyn Bahl (2020-21, Papillion-La Vista High School, Neb.), Megan Faraimo (2017-18, Cathedral Catholic High School, Calif.), Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.) and Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-4 senior left-handed pitcher led the Royals (15-4) to a state semifinals appearance this past season. Yoder compiled a 16-4 record with a .635 ERA, striking out 316 batters over 132.1 innings pitched while surrendering just 38 walks and 29 hits. She also batted .517 with five homers, 19 RBI and scored 23 runs while posting a 1.606 OPS. This was her first season of softball in the DIAA after transferring from the Greenwood Mennonite School.

Yoder has volunteered locally on behalf of summer softball camps and traveled to Jamaica last winter with a school group to work with local orphanages, the unhoused and food shelters. "Yoder is a phenomenal player and pitcher," said Smyrna High School head coach Nicki Shirey. "This is her first year playing high school ball as a senior, but most know her from travel ball. She has been the biggest standout this year by far."

Yoder has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Liberty University (Va.) 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.

Yoder joins recent Gatorade Delaware Softball Players of the Year Peyton Pusey (2021-22, Red Lion Christian Academy), Graceyn Frost (2020-21, Delaware Military Academy), and Tayler Vitola (2019-20 & 2018-19, Appoquinimink High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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).