WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Brooke Gerry** of **Windham High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year**. Gerry is the second Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Windham 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 Gerry as Maine'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, Gerry 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 Spring High School, Texas).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-6 junior left-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Eagles (14-2) to the Class A state tournament, which was scheduled to begin June 8. Gerry compiled an 8-0 record through 16 games this season with a 0.25 ERA in 57 innings, striking out 133 batters while surrendering just 21 hits and 10 walks. Gerry also batted .574 with 17 RBI, scored 30 runs and posted a 1.365 OPS. The 2021-22 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year, she's ranked the nation's No. 131 prospect in the Class of 2024 according to Extra Innings.

A team captain, Gerry has volunteered locally within the Windham High School youth softball community as both a pitching instructor and umpire. "Gerry is just at another level," said Gorham High School head coach Phil McGouldrick. "She's the best athlete for sure and is definitely top of the class."

Gerry maintains an A average in the classroom. She has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of Rhode Island in the fall of 2024.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 Gerry joins recent Gatorade Maine Softball Players of the Year Anna Cornell (2020-21, Cape Elizabeth High School), Bella Dickinson (2019-20, Scarborough High School), and Abby Orso (2018-19, York 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.