

HADDON HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Sophia Bordi** of **Haddon Heights High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year**. Bordi is the first Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Haddon Heights 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 Bordi as New Jersey'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, Bordi 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).

Entering tomorrow's Group 2 state title game, scheduled for June 10, the 5-foot-7 sophomore right-handed pitcher and first baseman owned a 14-3 record in the circle and a 0.43 ERA, leading the Garnets to a 22-6 record. Bordi struck out 258 batters and allowed just 30 hits and 17 walks in 114.1 innings through 28 games. She had fired three consecutive perfect games in the postseason entering the championship game, retiring 54 consecutive batters with 46 strikeouts. Ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2025 by Legacy & Legends Softball, she batted .346 with 10 home runs and a .778 slugging percentage en route to the state final.

Bordi has volunteered locally as a youth softball and tennis coach. "Sophia is the most dominant athlete I have ever coached against," said Pete Marlys, head coach of Sterling High School. "Her ability to change the game both offensively and defensively is unmatched. During the regular season, it felt like she was just working on things. In the playoffs, when it mattered, she went to another level."

Bordi has maintained a B average in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Bordi joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Softball Players of the Year Julia Apostolakos (2021-22, Donovan Catholic High School), Ava Metzger (2020-21, Colts Neck High School), and Karina Gaskins (2019-20 & 2018-19, Donovan Catholic 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/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.