

**NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Julia Shearer** of **North Penn High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year**. Shearer is the second Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Penn 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 Shearer as Pennsylvania'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, Shearer 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).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-8 senior left-handed pitcher had led the Knights to a 25-0 record and a berth in the Class 6A state quarterfinals. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Shearer posted a 25-0 record in the circle with a 0.23 ERA entering the postseason round of eight. She struck out 323 batters while walking just 13 in 153 innings. Ranked as the nation's No. 21 recruit in the Class of 2023 by Extra Inning Softball, Shearer batted .645 with 10 home runs, 49 runs scored and 30 RBI. She swiped 18 bases and compiled a .710 on-base percentage and a 1.171 slugging percentage.

Shearer has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit pediatric cancer research. She has also donated her time with Almost Home Dog Rescue, which saves homeless dogs, and as a youth softball coach. "Julia is an outstanding pitcher," said Carol Atkinson, head coach of Souderton High School. "She throws a killer change-up. Not only is she by far the best pitcher in this area, but she is also a great batter."

Shearer has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Maryland 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.

Two-time winner Shearer joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Mady Volpe (2020-21, North Penn High School), Marissa Trivelpiece (2019-20, Hazleton Area High School), and Brianna Peck (2018-19, Spring-Ford Area 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.