

**SPANISH FORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Avery Sapp** of **Spanish Fork High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year**. Sapp is the third Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spanish Fork 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 Sapp as Utah'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, Sapp 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 state's 2020-21 Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10 senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder led the Dons to a 28-2 record and a third-straight Class 5A state championship this past season. Sapp compiled a 21-2 mark in the circle with a 2.22 earned run average, striking out 206 batters in 129 innings. At the plate, she posted a .464 batting average with 11 home runs, 50 RBI and a .907 slugging percentage. She's a three-time state tournament MVP.

Sapp has volunteered locally at an elder-care facility and she has donated her time as a youth softball coach and instructor. "Avery was the toughest pitcher we faced all year," said Mike Anderson, head coach of Ridgeline High School. "She threw the hardest and had a great change up and riseball. Spanish Fork was the best team we faced, and the team fed off of her energy. She's a leader."

Sapp has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at Utah Valley University 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 Sapp joins recent Gatorade Utah Softball Players of the Year Kaysen Korth (2021-22, Riverton High School), Makaiya Gomez (2019-20, Copper Hills High School), and Huntyr Ava (2018-19, West 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.

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