

**CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 7, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Madelena Wachter** of **Concord High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year**. Wachter is the sixth Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Concord High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Wachter as New Hampshire’s best high school softball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Amanda Freed (1997-98, Pacifica High School, Calif.), Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.) and Ava Brown (2022-23 & 2021-22, Lake Creek High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-8 senior right-handed pitcher led the Crimson Tide to a 15-4 record and a No. 3 seed in the Division I state tournament this past season. Wachter compiled an 11-4 record in the circle with a 0.73 ERA in 95.2 innings pitched. She surrendered just 48 hits while striking out 188 batters against just 12 walks, limiting opponents to a 0.627 WHIP. She was named the Division I Pitcher of the Year and is a two-time First Team All-State selection. She also owns Concord’s single-game strikeout record with 18.

A National Honor Society Member, Wachter has volunteered locally as a youth pitching instructor. She has also participated in student government. “Wachter is one of the best pitchers New Hampshire has ever seen,” said Kevin Handy, head coach at Nashua South High School. “She has speed, control and movement. Most importantly, she knows exactly what each batter’s approach is, so she can adjust accordingly. I’ve never seen anyone like her.”

Wachter has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Bryant 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.

Wachter joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Players of the Year Sarah Taylor (2022-23, Concord High School), Kristen Beebe (2021-22, Exeter High School), Nicole Basil (2020-21, Winnacunnet High School) and Sam Wiberg (2019-20, Exeter High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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