

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY HIGH STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Madison McDougall** of **St. John Vianney High** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year**. McDougall is the second Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John Vianney High.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes McDougall as New Jersey'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).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-7 sophomore right-handed pitcher had led the Lancers (25-1) to the Non-public Group A South championship this season and a berth in the state title series, scheduled for June 7. McDougall owned a 24-1 record entering championship weekend and compiled a 0.85 ERA through 26 games. A 2023 All-State selection, she fanned 287 batters in 157 innings and fired two no-hitters this spring. She also batted .517 with 7 home runs and 32 RBI, slugging .862 along the way.

McDougall has volunteered as a homework partner for younger students once a week and has also donated her time as both a summer camp counselor and as a youth softball coach. In addition, she's participated in trash pickup initiatives at local beaches. "Madison McDougall is a standout pitcher," said Debbie Schwartz, head coach at Donovan Catholic High School. "She's a gritty, invested and talented player who excels both on the mound and at the plate. Madison's passion for the game separates her from most players."

McDougall has maintained a 3.70 GPA 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.

McDougall joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Softball Players of the Year Sophia Bordi (2022-23, Haddon Heights High School), Julia Apostolakos (2021-22, Donovan Catholic High School), Ava Metzger (2020-21, Colts Neck High School) and Karina Gaskins (2019-20, Donovan Catholic 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.