## ST. ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (June 7, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Mila Fiordalisi** of **St. Anthony's High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year**. Fiordalisi is the first Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Anthony's 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 Fiordalisi as New York'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-7 senior right-handed pitcher led the Friars to a 25-0 record and the Catholic High School Athletic Association state championship this past season. Fiordalisi compiled a 21-0 record with a 0.56 earned run average, firing a two-hit shutout to defeat St. Mary's of Lancaster in the state final. A three-time Nassau-Suffolk CHSAA League Pitcher of the Year, she struck out 206 batters while allowing just 48 hits in 124 innings pitched.

The president of the St. Anthony's Sports Medicine Club, Fiordalisi has a goal to become a certified personal trainer by next summer. She has volunteered locally as a Little League umpire and as a youth pitching instructor. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "We are a very high-powered offense and Mila has made our lives miserable," said Ken Conrade, head coach of Kellenberg Memorial High School. "I saw a stat that Mila had only given up 16 runs and we were responsible for eight of them. But when I tell you that every time we were close to getting the better of her, she found a way, made a pitch or got us to mishit or ground out. It happened too often to be a mere coincidence."

Fiordalisi has maintained a weighted A average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to attend Cornell University, where she will play softball, this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Fiordalisi joins recent Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Stefania Abruscato (2022-23, Hauppauge High School), Atalyia Rijo (2021-22, Corning-Painted Post High School) and Shannon Becker (2020-21 & 2019-20, Mahopac 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.