ST. EDMOND CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Mariah Myers of St. Edmond Catholic School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Myers as Iowa's best high school softball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.), Ava Brown (2022-23, Lake Creek High School, Texas) and Addisen Fisher (2023-24, Bend High School, Oregon).

The 5-foot-9 senior third baseman led the Gaels to a 26-7 record and the third-place game in the Class 1A state tournament last season. Myers hit .600 with 36 RBI and scored 45 runs, stole 23 bases, posting a 1.360 slugging percentage and an OPS of 2.074. She was named Class 1A First Team All-State and is ranked as the nation's No. 31 prospect in the Class of 2025 by Perfect Game.

Myers has volunteered locally with Pride in Community Appearance, a group that picks up trash, rakes leaves and takes part in other cleanup projects around Fort Dodge. She has also donated her time as a youth softball coach. "Mariah is one of the best players I've watched play the game of softball," said Kim Price, head coach at North Union High School. "Mariah is a force at the plate and defensively on the field. She has impeccable discipline at the plate, and she can adjust to the pitch to get a solid hit regardless of the location."

Myers has maintained a 3.8 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at the University of Iowa 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate studentathletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X (Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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