## BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Alyx Rossi of Bedford High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Massachusetts 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 Rossi as Massachusetts' 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).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-9 senior right-handed pitcher had led the Buccaneers to a 17-1 record and the No. 3 seed in the MIAA Division II state tournament this season. Rossi compiled a 12-2 record in the circle with a 0.412 ERA through 18 games, striking out 232 batters in 102 innings, posting a 0.647 WHIP. Offensively, she entered the postseason batting .530 with four home runs, 22 RBI and 27 runs scored, recording a .581 on-base percentage, an .894 slugging percentage and a 1.475 OPS. Named the 2024 Boston Globe Division II Player of the Year, Rossi also earned All-Scholastic honors from both the Globe and the Boston Herald as a junior. She entered the 2025 postseason with 917 career strikeouts.

A member of both the Spanish National Honor Society and Bedford's Academic Hall of Fame, Rossi has volunteered locally with her town's club of social concern. She has also served as a member of her school's Model UN team and with the UNITAS Leadership Academy, a student-leadership organization. "Rossi is such a talented pitcher and hitter as well," said Westford Academy head coach Gina Mustoe. "She dominates on the mound and has such control over all of her pitches. The last two years when my varsity team faced her, she shut us down, striking out 11 this year and 13 last year. Bedford is lucky to have her on the team. She is more than deserving of the Gatorade Player of the Year award."

Rossi has maintained a 4.3 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball on scholarship at Boston College 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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