

IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Gabriella Shadek of Immaculate Heart Academy is the 2024-25 Gatorade New Jersey 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 Shadek as New Jersey's best high school softball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as 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-8 senior catcher batted .517 with 13 home runs and 34 RBI this past season, leading the Eagles (24-2) to the Non-Public North Jersey, Group A Tournament championship game. Shadek hit three home runs in a 12-0 win over Pingry School in the tournament semifinals to become the state's career record-holder with 49 home runs. She also walked 38 times this spring and connected for nine doubles, compiling a .704 on-base percentage and a 2.021 OPS. Defensively, the 2024 Northern New Jersey Player of the Year neutralized opposing running games, throwing out 6-of-15 would-be base stealers and picking off five runners at first base.

Shadek has volunteered locally with the CHD Coalition, a group founded by her parents that benefits children born with congenital heart defects. She has also donated her time on behalf of Tackle Kids Cancer and as a youth softball coach. "Gabby is a complete game-changer," said Darren White, head coach of Ramapo High School. "Everyone talks about her hitting and power, but she impacts the game so much more defensively. Our team is built on speed and aggressive baserunning and she completely neutralizes that aspect."

Shadek has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at Duke 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 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 student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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