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**DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Madison Jahner of Dickinson High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year. Jahner is the first Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dickinson High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Jahner as North Dakota's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Jahner joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Angela Tincher (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-6 senior right-handed pitcher, outfielder and second baseman has led the Midgets to a 31-3 record and a berth in the Class A state tournament quarterfinals against Fargo North High, scheduled for June 2. Jahner has posted a 16-0 record along with a 1.88 ERA in the circle. She has struck out 130 batters in 93.1 innings pitched, allowing just 63 hits. At the plate, the Western Dakota Association Player of the Year batted .510 with 11 doubles, seven triples, 51 runs scored and a .837 slugging percentage through 34 games.

Jahner has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. A student at nearby Trinity High in Dickinson, she is a member of her school's Jazz Choir and has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach.

"Madi Jahner is an excellent competitor in the circle that probably has the most dynamic stuff of anyone in the state," said Ryne Jungling, head coach of Mandan High. "Most of all, Madi is a competitor to the highest level. At the plate, she is as tough an out as there is and is going up to the plate looking to drive the ball on every pitch."

Jahner will attend the University of Mary beginning 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Jahner joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Softball Players of the Year Hannah Stewart (2014-15, Bishop Ryan Catholic High School), Brittany Rheault (2013-14 & 2012-13, West Fargo High School), Sydney Greenlund (2011-12, West Fargo High School) and Kacie Johnson, (2010-11 & 2009-10, West Fargo High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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