

LAKE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Ava Brown of Lake Creek High School is the 2022-23 Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Creek 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 Brown as Texas' best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Brown joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jordyn Bahl (2020-21, Papillion-La Vista High School, Neb.), Megan Faraimo (2017-18, Cathedral Catholic High School, Calif.), Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.) and Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Lions to a 44-1 record and a second straight Conference 5A state championship this past season. Brown compiled a 27-0 record in the circle with a 0.53 ERA, firing a one-hitter with 15 strikeouts in Lake Creek's 8-0 win over Canyon High in the state final. Ranked as the nation's No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2023 by Extra Inning Softball, Brown struck out 292 batters while walking just 30 in 172 innings. At the plate, the 2022 MaxPreps First Team All-American batted .462 with nine home runs, 17 doubles, 65 RBI and a .888 slugging percentage. She concluded her prep softball career with a 81-0 record and 830 strikeouts in the circle.

Brown has volunteered with her local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and as a youth softball coach. "Ava is capable of completely shutting down high-powered offenses with her pitching, and she's capable of hitting a ball out of the park at any time," said Aaron Fuller, head coach of Barbers Hill High School. "She does a great job in the circle mixing up her pitches and keeping good hitters off-balance."

Brown has maintained a 3.55 in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Florida 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 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.

Two-time winner Brown joins recent Gatorade Texas Softball Players of the Year Sophia Simpson (2020-21, Barbers Hill High School), Jayda Coleman (2019-20, The Colony High School), and Rylee Trlicek (2018-19, Hallettsville High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.