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**DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 4, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jordanne McNeilly of Dickinson High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year. McNeilly 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 McNeilly 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, McNeilly joins an elite alumni association of past state softball award-winners, including Catherine Osterman (2000-01, Cy Spring High School, Texas), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City High School, Kan.), Carley Hoover (2012-13 D.W. Daniel High School, S.C.), Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School, Ohio), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13 Cabell Midland High School, W. Va.), and Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6 senior catcher had led the Midgets to a 25-2 record and a berth in the Class A state quarterfinals at the time of her selection. McNeilly produced a .500 batting average with nine doubles, five home runs, 49 runs scored and 47 runs batted in through 27 games. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she swiped nine bases and compiled a .547 on-base percentage and a .804 slugging percentage.

Vice president of the Dickinson High student body, McNeilly has volunteered locally as a youth softball umpire and youth basketball referee. She has also donated her time to multiple fundraising campaigns to benefit her community.

McNeilly has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball on scholarship at Minnesota State University Moorhead 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 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.

McNeilly joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Softball Players of the Year Stephi Dullum (2016-17 & 2015-16, West Fargo High School), 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.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jordanne will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.