

**FORT DODGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jalen Adams** of **Fort Dodge Senior High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year**. Adams is the first Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fort Dodge Senior 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 Adams as Iowa's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Adams joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Cat 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-9 senior right-handed pitcher led the Dodgers (38-4) to the Class 5A state championship last summer. Adams posted a 25-1 record with a 0.66 ERA, striking out 219 batters in 159.2 innings pitched, while surrendering just 57 hits and 22 walks. The Class 5A Pitcher of the Year and the Des Moines Register Elite Team Pitcher of the Year, she batted .422 with five home runs and 28 RBI.

Also a basketball standout, Adams has served as freshman mentor in her school and has volunteered locally on behalf of a Christmas gift program for underprivileged families. "Jalen Adams is a tremendous competitor," said Brett Delaney, head coach at Ankeny Centennial High School. "She's a dominant pitcher who throws hard and comes right at you. Nothing fazes her. She plays hard and she plays the right way."

Adams has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Iowa this fall. The state of Iowa—distinct from the other 49 states sanctioning softball—begins its high scho

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.

Adams joins recent Gatorade Iowa Softball Players of the Year Ayana Lindsey (2020-21, Iowa City High School), Mikayla Houge (2019-20, Collins-Maxwell High School), Kaylin Kinney (2018-19, Kennedy High School), and Alexia Lara (2017-18, Pleasant Valley High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Adams has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Adams is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

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.

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