

**SKUTT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Ruby Meylan** of **Skutt Catholic High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year**. Meylan is the second Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skutt Catholic 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 Meylan as Nebraska'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, Meylan 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 6-foot-1 senior right-handed pitcher led the Skyhawks (33-0) to a perfect season and the Class B state championship this past season. Meylan posted a 17-0 record with a 0.41 ERA, striking out 180 batters in 86 innings pitched while walking just 16. Co-captain of the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State team, she also batted .537 with 18 home runs and 44 RBI. An Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska First Team honoree, she's ranked as the nation's No. 14 prospect in the Class of 2022 by Extra Inning Softball.

A member of her school's Student Council, Meylan has volunteered locally on behalf of the Big Hawks mentoring program and youth summer camps. "What Ruby Meylan did on both sides of the ball is impressive," said Chad Perkins, head coach at Marian High School. "She was the most dominant pitcher in the state, in all classes, and the numbers she put up at the plate were outstanding, especially since everyone was trying to pitch around her."

Meylan has maintained a weighted 4.18 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

Meylan joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Softball Players of the Year Jordyn Bahl (2020-21 & 2019-20, Papillion-La Vista High School), Emma Kauf (2018-19, Lincoln Southwest High School), and Courtney Wallace (2017-18, Papillion-La Vista 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, Meylan 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. Meylan 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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