

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

**CHICAGO** (June 9, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Taylor Christensen** of **Beulah High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year**. Christensen is the first Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Beulah 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 Christensen as North Dakota'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, Christensen 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 5-foot-7 senior right-handed pitcher led the Miners to a 26-1 record and the Class B state championship this past season, the first softball title in school history. In three state tournament games, Christensen went 3-0 with 39 strikeouts and issued just one walk. She posted a record of 14-1 in the circle, adding one save, to go with a 1.19 ERA, 196 strikeouts and just 11 walks, averaging 2.22 Ks per inning. She also batted .527 with 52 RBI and did not strike out in 93 at-bats.

Christensen has volunteered locally at a food pantry in Glen Ullin, and a soup kitchen in Bismarck. She also has donated her time to her team's inaugural Cancer Night fundraiser, which raised more than \$4,000 for the Bismarck Cancer Center. "Taylor is the real deal. Offensively, she's an extremely difficult out and can change the game with one swing," said Matt Chandler, Thompson High School head coach. "In the circle, she is the complete package. She has a great mix of pitches and is consistently in the zone."

Christensen attends Glen Ullin Hebron High School, where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. Glen Ullin Hebron High School fields several co-op athletic teams with Beulah. She has made a verbal commitment to attend South Mountain Community College in Phoenix, where she will play softball 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 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.

Christensen joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Softball Players of the Year Logan Gronberg (2021-22, 2019-20, & 2018-19 Bismarck High School) and Maddy Zander (2020-21, Century 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).