

**BETTYE DAVIS EAST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 7, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Sela Rodriguez** of **Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year**. Rodriguez is the first Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Rodriguez as Alaska’s best high school softball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Amanda Freed (1997-98, Pacifica High School, Calif.), Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.) and Ava Brown (2022-23 & 2021-22, Lake Creek High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-8 sophomore right-handed pitcher and third baseman led the Thunderbirds to a 25-3 record and a Division I state championship this past season. Rodriguez compiled a record of 16-2 in the circle with a 1.97 ERA while striking out 198 batters and holding opponents to a .160 batting average over 96 innings pitched. She also batted .448 with a team high nine home runs and 39 RBI to post a 1.545 OPS. She entered the season as a returning 2023 First Team All-State and All-Cook Inlet Conference selection.

Rodriguez has volunteered locally by making blankets for patients with the Providence Alaska Children’s Hospital and has also donated her time as a youth softball coach. “Statistically, her numbers stand out, but for me it’s her character and pride for the game that truly reflect what an athlete she is,” said Virginia Griffith, head coach at East Anchorage High School. “Sela’s a dedicated teammate. She consistently buoyed our offense and defense, no matter the score or situation.”

Rodriguez has maintained a 3.71 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Rodriguez joins recent Gatorade Alaska Softball Players of the Year Emily McCutcheon (2022-23 & 2021-22, South Anchorage High School) and Sabrina Jolin (2020-21 & 2019-20, South Anchorage High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).