

CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 7, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kathryn Emmert of Capital High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Montana Softball Player of the Year**. Emmert is the first Gatorade Montana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Capital 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 Emmert as Montana’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-5 senior right-handed pitcher led the Bruins to a 23-4 record and the AA state championship this past season. Emmert compiled a 19-3 record with a 1.90 ERA and 195 strikeouts in 114 innings pitched, averaging 1.71 strikeouts per inning. The Western AA Defensive Player of the Year and First-Team All-Conference, she struck out 13 in the state championship game, a 3-2 win over Glacier in eight innings.

Emmert has volunteered locally at St. Peter’s Health, a community hospital, and at a food bank, where she collects donations and delivers food boxes. She has also donated her time to the “Paint the State” project, an initiative through the Montana Meth Project, painting murals to communicate the risks of methamphetamine use. “Kathryn just seemed to get so much more dominant as the year progressed,” said Ryan Schulte, head coach at Helena High School. “We saw her twice and she flat-out dominated us in both games. I watched her multiple times in the state tourney, and she had added a pitch to her arsenal that made her darn near unhittable at times.”

Emmert has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to attend Carroll College, where she will play soccer, beginning in the 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.

Emmert joins recent Gatorade Montana Softball Players of the Year Ella Farrell (2022-23, Glacier High School), Kennedy Venner (2021-22, Billings Senior High School), Kynzie Mohl (2020-21, Glacier High School) and Anna Toon (2019-20, Great Falls 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.