

**DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Ava Jahner** of **Dickinson High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year**. Jahner is the second Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dickinson 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 Jahner as North Dakota’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, infielder and outfielder led the Midgets to a 26-4 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Jahner compiled a record of 21-1 with four saves, a 1.24 ERA and 161 strikeouts in 118.1 innings pitched. The Class A Softball Senior Athlete of the Year, she also batted .470 with 50 RBI and 26 extra-base hits.

Jahner has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple youth sports camps and activities. She has also served as an assistant chaplain, working as an attendant at religious services at Trinity Catholic School. “Ava is just an outstanding athlete and competitor,” said Kyle Christensen, head coach at Beulah High School. “She does everything well: swings the bat for power and average, runs well, plays solid D at first base or in the outfield. ”

Jahner attends Trinity Catholic School, where she maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. Trinity Catholic and Dickinson field a co-op softball team. Jahner has made a verbal commitment to attend Dickinson State, where she will play softball and volleyball.

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.

Jahner joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Softball Players of the Year Taylor Christensen (2022-23, Beulah High School), Logan Gronberg (2021-22 & 2019-20, Bismarck High School) and Maddy Zander (2020-21, Century 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).