

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Madison Evans** of **Lincoln High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Dakota Softball Player of the Year**. Evans is the first Gatorade South Dakota Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Evans as South 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 led the Patriots (22-0) to the Class AA state title this past season. Evans went 19-0 in the circle, posting a 0.87 ERA and a 0.67 WHIP while striking out 217 batters in 97 innings. A two-time All-State and All-Tournament honoree, she surrendered just four hits and one earned run in three postseason games, striking out 44. At the plate this spring, she batted .605 with five home runs, 39 RBI and 31 runs scored, posing an OPS of 1.775.

A member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta national mathematics honor society, Evans has volunteered locally on behalf of the Sioux Falls Marathon, the Special Olympics and as a youth softball mentor and instructor. "Madison Evans is one of the most dominant softball players in South Dakota history," said Ed Whiting, head coach at Jefferson High School. "Her command and ability to paint the plate make her untouchable at times. She can locate multiple pitches, but asserts her dominance with a riseball that seems to defy the laws of physics. Although she is known for her supremacy in the circle, she's also an outstanding hitter. Madison is an ultimate competitor and she leaves a lasting mark on sanctioned softball in the state of South Dakota."

Evans has maintained a 4.11 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of South Dakota 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.

Evans is the first Gatorade South Dakota Softball Player of the Year.

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.