

**RIDGELINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Brielle Gardiner** of **Ridgeline High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year**. Gardiner is the first Gatorade Utah Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ridgeline 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 Gardiner as Utah’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-10 freshman right-handed pitcher led the Riverhawks to a 30-1 record and a Class 4A state championship this past season. Gardiner compiled a 27-1 record on the mound with a 0.78 ERA, surrendering just 69 hits in 162.1 innings while striking out 246 batters. She also batted .532 with nine home runs and 55 RBI to produce an OPS of 1.570. Gardiner enjoyed a 32-inning scoreless streak during Ridgeline’s 2024 state tournament run while also leading the team in hitting (.640 average) throughout the postseason. She limited opposing batters to a .125 average this spring.

Gardiner has volunteered locally as youth softball pitching instructor. She has also donated her time playing guitar for residents at assisted living facilities in Logan, Utah. “There are a lot of standout players [in Utah this year], but I’d agree that Gardiner stood out the most,” said Whitley Haimin, head coach at Riverton High School. “Her performance on the mound against us was super-impressive. We have a great offense and she held us to just two hits when we played.”

Gardiner has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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.

Gardiner joins recent Gatorade Utah Softball Players of the Year Avery Sapp (2022-23, Spanish Fork High School), Kaysen Korth (2021-22, Riverton High School), Avery Sapp (2020-21, Spanish Fork High School) and Makaiya Gomez (2019-20, Copper Hills 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.