

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Yanina Sherwood** of **Jackson High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Washington Softball Player of the Year**. Sherwood is the second Gatorade Washington Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson 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 Sherwood as Washington’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-11 senior right-handed pitcher led the Timberwolves to a 25-2 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Sherwood posted a 25-2 mark in the circle with a 0.50 earned run average, striking out 273 batters while allowing just 61 hits in 167 innings pitched. A member of the Peruvian National Team, she batted .392 with 10 home runs and 35 RBI this spring.

A tenor saxophonist in the Jackson High school band, Sherwood has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a youth softball coach. “Yanina is so good—she leads with her actions and a mow-you-down approach when she’s pitching,” said Sarah Hirsch, head coach of Lake Stevens High School. “She’s hard to hit with her spin and speed on the ball. At the plate, she’s intimidating and a tough out. You miss a pitch by the smallest amount and she hits it hard.”

Sherwood has maintained a 3.44 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play softball at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas 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.

Sherwood joins recent Gatorade Washington Softball Players of the Year Maddie Milhorn (2022-23, Skyview High School), Sarah Wright (2021-22, Kentwood High School), Nicola Simpson (2020-21, Garfield High School) and Raigan Barrett (2019-20, Rogers 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.