## GRETNA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Alexis Jensen of Gretna High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Jensen as Nebraska's best high school softball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.), Ava Brown (2022-23, Lake Creek High School, Texas) and Addisen Fisher (2023-24, Bend High School, Oregon).

The 5-foot-9 senior left-handed pitcher led the Dragons to an undefeated season (38-0) and the Class A state championship last season. Jensen posted a record of 20-0 in the circle with a 0.29 earned run average and struck out 234 against just 10 walks, compiling a 0.35 WHIP in 98 innings pitched. The state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, she hit .549 with 44 RBI and 10 home runs.

Jensen has volunteered locally on behalf of the Nebraska Food Bank and the Heartland Hope Mission food bank. She has also donated her time at the Open Door Mission's Lydia House, a homeless shelter in Omaha. "Alexis Jensen is the best pitcher and most well-rounded hitter and teammate in the state," said Tom Horton, head coach at Papillion-LaVista South High School. "Her competitiveness is unmatched. Without her in the lineup, Gretna doesn't have the season they had."

Jensen has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at the University of Nebraska this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade,</u> Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X (Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

###