



Taylor Dean; Stanley HS



Skylar Strand; Bismarck HS

NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik

Scholarship Recipients Selected

The recipients of the annual NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik \$1,000 Scholarship have been identified and notified for 2020. After evaluation and assessment, the selection committee selected **Taylor Dean** from Stanley High School and **Skylar Strand** from Bismarck High School as beneficiaries. The Scholarships will be presented to the two young student/athletes at the NDHSCA Annual Awards Banquet, which will be held at the Fargo Ramada Inn Convention Center on Thursday, July 30th.

The Scholarship was established in 2008 when Joe Howell, Lisbon High School Track & Field Coach made a motion to establish the scholarship to honor Gelaine Orvik. Coach Orvik is a 35-year veteran coach who also served the North Dakota High School Coaches Association from 1974-2015. The requirements for the Scholarship Recipient are that he or she will be a student-athlete graduate from a North Dakota High School and will attend a North Dakota College or University. The final requisite is that he/she intends to pursue the profession of interscholastic coaching.

The nomination form identifies the criteria used for consideration for selection: GPA, class rank percentile, athletic awards, activity awards, ACT test scores, captain's and leadership roles, an application letter from the applicant, and recommendation letters from faculty, coach and administration. The recipients also best exemplifies the values

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and ideals modeled by Coach Orvik, as teacher and coach; those values and ideals he expected from his athletes and students; and those same values, ideals and principles he urges all coaches to portray.

The NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik \$1,000 Scholarship Fund has been developed by donations from coaches, coaches' friends and sportswear companies. Extraordinary donations are made annually by coaches as they register for the Annual NDHSCA Convention and/or for Annual NDHSCA Membership. Universal Athletics has made a concerted effort to readily donate at the Annual Taco Social at the NDHSCA Convention. Some coaches have made the Scholarship Fund a recipient as a memorial for friends and relatives. SUBWAY also makes an annual \$1,000 donation for a **second NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik Scholarship**.

TAYLOR DEAN; STANLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Taylor Dean is ranked first in her class of 42 at Stanley High School. She will have earned more than 29 credits when she graduates; she has an ACT test composite of 29 and earned a GPA of 4.00 through seven semesters. Her academic classes include College Credit Classes in calculus, college composition 1 and college speech. Her GPA reflects her college credit classes as well as human anatomy.

Taylor lettered in cross-country as a ninth grader, in track & field as a 10th and 11th grader, and in volleyball, basketball, and softball for her four years in high school (although her senior year of softball was eliminated due to Coronavirus). She was a member of FBLA and S-Club for four years and participated in band for two years and Academic Olympics for two years Taylor had also served as a team captain in basketball (three years), volleyball as a senior and in softball as a junior.

Taylor was nominated for this scholarship by her basketball and track & field coach, Kelly Roemmich. Kelly was also her math instructor. He praised her scholastically "as a math student . . . who worked hard at completing assignments accurately and in a timely fashion." Kelly added that "Taylor was also a very respectful student and would never be a disruption in class."

Alecia Pulver additionally declares Taylor's being a respectful student who enjoys a healthy relationship with her peers and adults. She is a positive role model for younger students. Taylor never avoids a challenge and is committed to perseverance and success. In basketball Kelly alluded to her time and effort to improve in the sport. Although she may not have been the fastest athlete, she made up by hustling. Taylor had a superlative work ethic and was the epitome of a student-athlete. Coach Roemmich asserts that Taylor isn't "an in your face leader", but she leads by example and always congratulates teammates when they perform well.

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Overall **Taylor's** recommendations center on her academics, commitment, work-ethic, dedication and positivity. She is a great leader and student-athlete with a commitment to be a true team person, all of which qualify her as a deserving recipient of the NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik Scholarship.

Taylor is the daughter of Beth and Brandon Dean.

SKYLER STRAND; BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL

Skyler Strand will graduate ranked first in his class of 282 in a Weighted Class Rank with an ACT test composite score of 27. He had a Weighted GPA of 4.05 with a curriculum that included AP government, AP psychology, AP US History, AP biology and Blended English 12.

Skyler competed and lettered in hockey and baseball for the four years he attended Bismarck High School. He was a leader and/or a captain in baseball as a junior and hockey as a senior. He was elected to be the team captain as a senior, but of course the season has been curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Skyler was a member of Student Council for three years and senior class president. He was a member of DECA as a 9th grader and prom committee as a junior. He was a member of HOSA for three years and National Honor Society his final three years at Bismarck High School. Skyler also served two terms on the State Superintendent's Student Cabinet.

Skyler shared that he wanted to become a high school coach because coaches influence athletes and their life decisions. Student-athletes are such vulnerable people as they strive for success. Coaches also serve as positive role-models and as inspirations in how to lead, overcome adversity and be a part of a team. Coaches are constantly imparting leadership skills that influence athletes for their lifetime.

Skyler is praised by his baseball coach who has known Skyler as a student, player and co-worker. Coach Carr says "Skyler is a hard worker in everything he does." Carr adds that Skyler's "...positive attitude brightens any environment he is in and makes working with him a positive experience." During Skyler's senior hockey season, he endured a season ending injury. Coach shared, "True to Skyler's form, he turned lemons into lemonade by becoming a student assistant coach....because of Skyler's personality, work ethic, and motivation our team had a remarkable successful season."

Skyler received similar commendation from his baseball coach. Scott Kinnischtke calls Skyler "a true student of the game." Scott points to Skyler's "...interest in little parts of the sport that many players overlook." Coach Kinnischtke added "Skyler was returning catcher for the Demons; officially the team does not have captains, but make no mistake--Skyler is our leader. His Coachability and sportsmanship are both top-notch. He has

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provided vocal support and is a great role model for the other players on the team, with his calm, collected, analytical nature.”

Skyler receives complementary accolades from the Bismarck High School Athletic Director. Scot Nustad compliments Skyler “...with being diligent, intelligent and pleasant. Nustad adds “Skyler is enthusiastic, thorough...and demanding of the best from himself.” Nustad’s final remark is that “Skyler will be a great ambassador for the NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik –NDHSCA Scholarship’s values and commitment to the youth of North Dakota.”

Undoubtedly **Skyler’s** recommendations center on his academics, leadership, dedication, motivation, responsibility and reliability. His high school preparation, outstanding character and his vision for himself to be a leader of student-athletes make him a deserving recipient of the NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik Scholarship.

Skyler is the son of Mikayla and Jason Jahner and Joe Strand.