NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik Scholarship Recipients

Three recipients of the annual NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik $1,000 Scholarships have been selected and notified for being awarded at the Mandan Baymont Hotel and Convention Center on Wednesday, July 29, 2026. After evaluation and assessment, the selection committee determined the beneficiaries to be **Elizabeth Fedje** from Valley-Edinburg High School, **Aubrey Kenner** from Maddock High School and **Leah Volochenko** from Velva High School.

The Scholarship was established in 2008 when the Late 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 or she intends to pursue the profession of interscholastic coaching.

The nomination form identifies the criteria used for consideration on selection: GPA, class rank percentile, athletic awards, activity awards, ACT test scores, captains' and leadership roles, an application letter, and recommendation letters from faculty, coach, and administration. The recipients also best exemplify the values and ideals modeled by Coach Orvik, as teacher and coach; those values, ideals and principles he expected from his athletes and students; those same values, ideals and principles he urges all coaches to portray.

Elizabeth Fedje

Elizabeth Fedje ranked first in her class of 15 students at Valley-Edinburg High School. She has an ACT score of 25 and earned a GPA of 3.95. **Elizabeth** has earned dual credits in psychology, United States History, Art, Communications, Sociology, and College Algebra at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake.

Elizabeth participated in three sports (volleyball, basketball and track and field) all four years at Valley-Edinburg. She earned a total of twelve athletic letters in these three sports. **Ms. Fedje** was the State Champion in the High Jump as a Junior and Senior in high school. She also participated in one act play, Academic Olympics, Science Fair, Science Olympiad, Scrubs Camp, Student Council, Math Track Meet, National Honor Society, Band, and Choir.

Elizabeth explanation of why she wants to be a coach is the influence a coach can have on a young person's life. She wishes to develop athletic ability, character, work ethic, and confidence in the athlete's life. Her goal is to create a positive environment where students feel supported, challenged, and inspired to become the best version of themselves.

Elizabeth's track and field coach, Jeryl "Murph" Thompson, praises her integrity, respectfulness, social maturity, and dependability. He describes her as having high moral character and strong personal ethics.

Elizabeth Fedje is the daughter of Jodi and David Fedje.

Aubrey Kenner

Aubrey Kenner ranked first in her class of 20 students at Maddock High School. She has an ACT score of 20 and earned a 4.0 GPA. **Aubrey** participated in volleyball, basketball, and track and field all four years of high school. She earned twelve letters in these three sports and was considered a leader throughout her high school career. **Ms. Kenner** also participated in Student Council, Choir, Band, Pep-Band, Close Up, and FFA.

Aubrey's explanation of why she wants to be a coach is the mentoring she has had from her father who was her basketball coach since she was in the fourth grade. **Ms. Kenner's** passion and love for basketball have helped in shaping her work ethic, discipline and mindset on and off the court. This creates a desire to learn, teach, and help others succeed. Her dream is to one day give back to the game she loves.

Bobby Hoffner, **Aubrey's** track and field coach, has this to say about her. **"Aubrey** has a strong work ethic, a sheer determination to succeed, and is goal oriented. She is an outstanding student and an excellent role model. Her character and personal qualities describe what the Gelaine Orvik scholarship is all about."

Aubrey Kenner is the daughter of Robin and Bryan Kenner.

Leah Volochenko

Leah Volochenko ranked first in her class of 37 students at Velva High School. She has an ACT score of 27 and earned a 4.0 GPA. **Leah** earned dual credits in Fundamentals of Speaking, College Composition I, College Composition II, Psychology and Sociology from Lake Region State College. She also earned dual credits in Exceptional Children from Minot State University.

Leah participated in Volleyball, Basketball, and Softball during high school. She earned nine letters in the sports of Volleyball (1), Basketball (4), and Softball (4). **Ms. Volochenko** was also involved in Band, FCCLA, 4-H, FBLA, Youth Group, and a class officer.

Leah has the desire to become a coach because of all the leadership opportunities she has had while competing in sports. She feels a great coach builds an athlete's confidence, teaches accountability, and helps the athlete develop skills that carry into

everyday life. Her goal is to become a coach who creates a positive and supportive environment where athletes feel valued and motivated to improve.

Bryce Gutknecht, **Leah's** softball coach, mentions the following. **Leah** is someone you can count on. She is someone you want to lead and teach young kids. **Ms. Volochenko** is trustworthy, confident, and intelligent. She creates a plan and knows how to execute it.

Leah Volochenko is the daughter of Natasha and Dustin Volochenko.

Congratulations!!!

Elizabeth Fedje,

Aubrey Kenner

and

Leah Volochenko