

## QUEEN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARIZONA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Emma Reynolds of Queen Creek High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arizona 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 excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Reynolds as Arizona's best high school softball player and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress, TX), Alicia Hollowell (2001-02, Fairfield, CA) and Hannah Wells (2024-25, Coahoma, TX).

The 5-foot-11 junior shortstop posted a .588 batting average with 10 home runs and 65 runs scored this past season, leading the Bulldogs (31-2) to the Conference 6A state championship game for a third straight year. Reynolds also banged out 23 doubles and stole 15 bases, compiling a .669 on-base percentage and a 1.175 slugging percentage to produce 34 RBI. A member of the 18-and-under USA Junior Women's National Team that won the WBSC World Cup in October, she was the Conference 6A Player of the Year.

Reynolds has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Emma is an amazing player," said Randy Burger, head coach of Desert Ridge High School. "I've never seen any high school player hit the ball as hard as she does. The fact that she also played shortstop with great range is a bonus."

Reynolds has maintained a weighted 4.07 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play softball at the University of Oklahoma beginning in the fall of 2027.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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