

**SHERIDAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Skylar Sterritt of Sheridan High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arkansas 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 Sterritt as Arkansas’ 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 senior shortstop led the Yellowjackets (20-3) to the semifinals of the Class 5A state tournament this past season. Sterritt swiped 54 bases, including six steals of home, to finish her prep career with a state-record 205 stolen bases, breaking the previous record of 187. A Class 5A All-Star, she also batted .613 with 54 runs scored along with 26 RBI, posting a .680 on-base percentage.

A member of the National Honor Society, Sterritt has volunteered locally performing various tasks at nursing homes and as part of her church’s vacation bible school. She has also donated her time as a youth gymnastics and volleyball coach. “Skylar is one of the best players I’ve seen in 41 years of coaching in Arkansas,” said Roger Rico, head coach at Arkansas High School. “You don’t get her out, she only gets herself out. She’s also a born leader.”

Sterritt has maintained a 4.14 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at the University of Arkansas this fall.

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 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.

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