

**LAKE FOREST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Bayli Glanden of Lake Forest High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Delaware 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 Glanden as Delaware’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-7 senior shortstop led the Spartans to a 15-5 record and a berth in Delaware’s state semifinals this past season. She batted .667 with nine homers, 36 RBI and 35 runs. Glanden walked 26 times and struck out just once, compiling an OPS of 2.140. A three-time First Team All-State selection, she was named the 2026 Delaware Player of the Year by the state’s coaches association.

A member of the National Honor Society, Glanden has donated her time locally as a softball mentor with her club program, Delaware Express. She has also served as her class secretary and is an active member of the Harrington Fire Company Auxiliary. “Glanden is one of the most dominant hitters I’ve seen in my 32 years as a head coach in Delaware,” said John Wells, head coach at Sussex Central High School. “As an opposing coach, you know the players who change your gameplan and who’s the focal point of that gameplan. That’s Glanden.”

Glanden has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball on scholarship at the University of Delaware 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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