

OWYHEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Hailey Brennan of Owyhee High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Idaho 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 Brennan as Idaho’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 junior right-handed pitcher led the Storm (30-3) to the Class 6A state championship this past season. Brennan compiled a record of 16-0 in the circle with a 0.43 ERA and fanned 231 batters in 96.2 innings, an average of 2.4 strikeouts per frame. A Class 6A First Team All-State selection, she also batted .506 with 29 RBI and struck out just three times in 92 plate appearances.

Brennan has volunteered locally caring for shelter animals at the West Valley Humane Society as well as on behalf of St. Mary’s Food Bank. She’s also donated her time shoveling snow for people in her neighborhood. “Her ability to locate and change speeds makes her very difficult to hit,” said Casey Higginbotham, Rocky Mountain High School head coach. “She changes the whole game plan when she’s in the circle. Offensively, she was solid, too—one of Owyhee’s top hitters.”

Brennan has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Boise State University 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 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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