

WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Brynley Erb of Western High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Indiana 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 Erb as Indiana'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).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-4 senior shortstop had led the Panthers to a 20-8 record and a berth in a Class 4A regional championship game this spring. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Erb owned a .674 batting average with 13 home runs, 53 runs scored and 43 RBI through 28 games. A 2025 MaxPreps Second Team All-American selection and a three-time First Team All-State honoree, she produced 10 doubles, eight triples and 27 stolen bases while compiling a .731 on-base percentage and a 1.430 slugging percentage entering the regional final.

Erb has volunteered locally at the Western High School concession stand during sporting events and as a peer tutor for students with mild and moderate intellectual challenges. She has also donated her time as a youth softball and volleyball coach. "We've played Western about 10 times in Brynley's four years and the kid is an absolute stud," said Chauncey Fry, head coach of West Lafayette High School. "She's as good as I've seen at the plate, in the field and on the bases in my 13-year coaching career."

Erb has maintained a weighted 3.43 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at the University of Kentucky 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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