

## **SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS 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 Addison Sabers of Saint Thomas Aquinas High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Kansas 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 Sabers as Kansas' 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 6-foot junior corner infielder led the Saints (25-4) to the Class 5A state championship game this past season. Sabers batted .667 with 64 RBI and 12 home runs with the latter two statistics representing single-season program records. Ranked as the nation's No. 95 prospect in her class by Softball America, she also scored 50 runs and compiled a .717 on-base percentage to earn First Team All-Eastern Kansas League.

Sabers has volunteered locally in multiple capacities with Variety KC, a nonprofit organization benefitting kids with disabilities. Along with her friend, Kaden, who has a condition called spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), she has helped open inclusive and accessible parks and accompanies Kaden to book signings, where she reads, "Variety Tales: Kaden's Dream," the first in a series of books that explore the dreams of Variety KC kids. "She's an absolute monster at the plate," said Tyler Dickerson, head coach at Blue Valley West High School. "She has a wide zone and will swing at anything, but also has the ability to hit anything. She can be patient and hunt her pitch. Or, if you try and get ahead and get a quick strike, she will make you pay."

Sabers has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Penn 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](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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