

FOREST LAKE AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Karianne Drury of Forest Lake Area High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Minnesota 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 Drury as Minnesota'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-8 senior catcher had led the Rangers (26-2) to the Class AAAA state tournament title game this spring. Drury batted .580 with 11 doubles, two triples and six home runs through 28 games, driving home 31 runs and scoring 48. A returning First Team All-State selection, she compiled a .679 OBP, an OPS of 1.667 and a .407 Isolated Power percentage in addition to stealing 24 bases in 26 attempts. Named a Top 10 Position Player in the state by Sports Illustrated, she posted a .991 fielding percentage, allowing just one passed ball and throwing out two of six would-be basestealers.

Drury has volunteered locally on behalf of Forest Lake Community Helping hands and works at S&C Sports Services' summer tournaments. She has also donated her time coaching and instructing youth players in association with the MN Moose as well as the Forest Lake Area High School youth program. "Karianne has been a model captain since she was a sophomore," said Sean Hall, Forest Lake head coach. "She's helped us create a strong team culture with new core covenants. She's also the hardest worker I've ever coached.

Drury has maintained a weighted 3.9 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at the University of Wisconsin 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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