

**BILLINGS WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Tatum Bush of Billings West High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Montana 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 Bush as Montana’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-9 junior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Golden Bears (23-3) to the Class AA state championship this past season, the program’s first title in 12 years. Bush compiled a record of 13-0 in the circle and threw four complete-game shutouts in the state tournament. She finished with a 0.69 ERA and 172 strikeouts and also batted .538 with 25 RBI and seven home runs.

The junior class president, Bush has volunteered locally organizing a middle school summer softball camp as part of her Platinum Program capstone project, which will raise money for new pitching lanes at the Billings West High School softball field. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through the school’s Key Club and National Honor Society chapter. “Tatum Bush has been a driving force for the Billings West High School softball program ever since she stepped on the field her freshman year,” said Billings West High School assistant coach Taylor Carpenter. “A key characteristic that stands out about Tatum is her humility. Time and time again, she has proven to be an impressive athlete, but her quiet confidence is what makes her a standout individual.”

Bush has maintained a 4.67 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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](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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