

**TAHLEQUAH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Zoie Griffin of Tahlequah High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Oklahoma 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 Griffin as Oklahoma’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-5 junior right-handed pitcher led the Tigers (32-7-1) to the Class 5A state semifinals this past season. Griffin compiled a record of 20-3 in the circle with a 0.77 ERA and 301 strikeouts in 155 innings, an average of 1.9 strikeouts per frame. Ranked as the nation’s No. 69 prospect in her class by Softball America, she also batted .413 with 47 RBI.

A member of the Oklahoma Indian Student Society and the Tahlequah chapter of the National Honor Society, Griffin has volunteered locally collecting and distributing winter essentials for those in need at local hospitals. She has also donated her time as a scoreboard operator at middle school softball games and by providing pitching lessons to youth players. “Zoie joined our program in May of 2025 and beginning with her first day on campus, it became very apparent that Zoie is a natural-born leader,” said Tahlequah High School coach, Chris Ray. “She assumed that leadership role because she has a very infectious personality that positively resonates with her teammates.”

Griffin has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Texas A&M 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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