

**VALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 Sophia Navarrete of Vale High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Oregon 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 Navarrete as Oregon’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-3 freshman right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Vikings to a 26-0 record and a berth in the Class 3A state semifinals this spring. Navarrete owned a .729 batting average with 11 home runs, 19 doubles, 47 runs scored and 53 RBI through 26 games. She walked 14 times, stole seven bases and compiled a .756 on-base percentage and a 1.500 slugging percentage. In the circle, Navarrete posted a 12-0 record with a 0.51 ERA and 180 strikeouts against just six walks in 82.1 innings entering the final four. During the regular season, she put together a 169-batter streak in which she did not allow a walk or hit a batter over the course of 11 appearances.

A member of her school’s chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Navarrete has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through 4-H. “Sophia is a pitcher and player who is mature beyond her years,” said Tim Cary, head coach of Pendleton High School. “She controls the game while in the circle and she also swings a very potent bat.”

Navarrete has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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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