

**GRAY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE
YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Aspen Boulware of Gray Collegiate Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade South Carolina 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 Boulware as South Carolina’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-7 junior shortstop led the War Eagles to a 33-0 record and a second-straight Class 4A state championship this past season. Boulware batted .554 with 12 home runs, 73 runs scored and 43 RBI. The youngest member of the 2025 18U USA Junior Women’s National Team which won a gold medal at the U18 World Cup last October, she also produced seven doubles, four triples, 28 walks and 58 stolen bases to compile a .694 on-base percentage and a 1.169 slugging percentage. The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year and the 2025 South Carolina Coaches Association of Women’s Sports Class 4A Player of the Year, she’s ranked as the nation’s No. 3 recruit in the Class of 2027 by Perfect Game.

A member of the Gray Collegiate Academy student athlete leadership team, Boulware has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. “Aspen isn’t afraid to be aggressive and forces [defenses] to be perfect,” said Amanda Matsumoto, head coach of West Ashley High School. “She has a huge impact on their team as the players look to her for leadership both on offense and defense.”

Boulware has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play softball at the University of South Carolina 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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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