

**JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Macy Bryant of Jefferson High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade South Dakota 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 Bryant as South Dakota’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-5 senior shortstop had led the Cavaliers (20-0) to the Class AA state tournament’s No. 1 seed this spring. Bryant compiled a jaw-dropping .831 batting average through 20 games, mashing 18 doubles, eight triples and seven home runs to produce 37 RBI and score 52 runs. A two-time Class AA All-State selection, she compiled an OBP of .849 and a slugging percentage of 1.590 for an OPS of 2.439. She also stole 14 bases without being caught and recorded a fielding percentage of .919.

Bryant has volunteered locally on behalf of The Banquet, the Cards for Kids project, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) natural disaster simulation and at an elementary school. The winner of a CTE “See the Vision of Who You Can Be” award, she has also donated her time to a blood-donation drive and has earned her Certified Nursing Assistant certification. Bryant is a 2025-26 Classrooms to Careers Selection by Sanford Aspire and Southeast Technical College. “Macy is the heartbeat of our team,” said Jefferson High School head coach, Ed Whiting. “She leads by example in the classroom, in the weight room and on the practice field as one of the hardest-working athletes among her peers. Her maturity and character naturally draw others to follow her lead. Younger players look up to her and teammates respect her because of the standard she consistently sets. She competes with integrity, encourages others with energy and positivity and carries herself with humility well beyond her years.”

Bryant has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at South Dakota State University 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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