

**BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Megan Gonyeau of Bellows Free Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Vermont 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 Gonyeau as Vermont’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-4 senior right-handed pitcher had led the Comets to a 14-0 record and a berth in the Division I state tournament this spring. Gonyeau went 7-0 in the circle with a 1.14 ERA entering the postseason, recording 61 strikeouts in 37 innings. She also batted .432 with a 1.014 OPS through 14 games. A two-time First Team All-Metro Selection for the defending Division I state champion Comets, she began tournament play with a 28-1 career record along with 200 strikeouts.

A member of her school’s athletic council, Gonyeau has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics. She has also donated her time to a youth road race to raise money for cancer research. “She’s very strong in the circle and will incorporate many different pitches to keep the batters consistently guessing what might come next,” said Jesse Kittredge, head coach at St. Johnsbury Academy. “She hits locations well with her fastball and works the zone with the off-speed spins. Megan also has a solid bat, making great contact in the middle of the lineup. She brings a great attitude on the softball field and she’s a team player and a leader. It’s been fun watching her over the past few years and facing her.”

Gonyeau has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. She will attend the University of Rhode Island this fall, where she will pursue a degree from the school’s pharmacy program.

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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