

JOE T. ROBINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 18, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Ella Dietz of Joe T. Robinson High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Soccer 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 Dietz as Arkansas’ best high school girls soccer player and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Mallory Swanson (2014-15, Mountain Vista High School, Colorado), Riley Jackson (2021-22, Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, Georgia) and Addison Halpern (2024-25, Rutgers Preparatory School, New Jersey).

The 6-foot freshman midfielder led the Senators to a 19-1 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season. Dietz scored 45 goals and passed for 38 assists, tallying two goals and an assist in Robinson’s 4-0 win over Brookland High School in the state final. A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-16 Women’s National Team, she is the youngest member of the Little Rock Rangers, a semi-professional USL League Two team.

Dietz has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society. She has also donated her time coaching youth soccer players. “Ella has the ability to be a playmaker or just take over the game if needed,” said Duke Ophof, head coach of Episcopal Collegiate School. “She can shoot from anywhere but has the intelligence to know when to shoot or get her teammates involved. She’s also a talented defender who knows when to mark or take away runs.”

Dietz 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 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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