

**GREEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 9, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Avari Morris** of **Green Valley High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year**. Morris is the first Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Green Valley High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Morris as Nevada’s best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Morris joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cy Spring High School, Texas), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City High School, Kan.), Carley Hoover (2012-13, D.W. Daniel High School, S.C.), Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School, Ohio), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13, Cabell Midland High School, W. Va.), and Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10 junior left-handed pitcher and center fielder led the Gators (27-7) to the Class 5A state championship this past season. Morris posted a 17-4 record with a 2.06 ERA, striking out 161 batters in 146 innings pitched, while walking just 26. She also batted .480 with four home runs and 29 RBI. The Southern Nevada Pitcher of the Year, she’s ranked as the nation’s No. 22 prospect in the Class of 2023 by Extra Inning Softball.

Morris has volunteered locally on behalf of her public library as well as youth sports programs. “Avari Morris overcame a big back injury and just dominated this year,” said Laura Cardin, head coach at Liberty High School. “She’s a lefty with crazy movement who has pinpoint control and really keeps hitters guessing. She has a beautiful swing too—short and quick with no wasted movement.”

Morris has maintained a weighted 4.31 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state winners in each sport.

Morris joins recent Gatorade Nevada Softball Players of the Year Hailey McLean (2020-21, Spanish Springs High School), Kailee Luschar (2019-20, Carson High School), Ashley Ward (2018-19, Coronado High School), and Tatum Spangler (2017-18, Coronado High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade’s “Play it Forward” platform, Morris has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Morris is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

Since the program’s inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

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 Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).