

**WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Taylor Brown** of **Washington High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Missouri Softball Player of the Year**. Brown is the first Gatorade Missouri Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Washington 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 Brown as Missouri'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, Brown joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jordyn Bahl (2020-21, Papillion-La Vista High School, Neb.), Megan Faraimo (2017-18, Cathedral Catholic High School, Calif.), Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.) and Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-10 junior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Blue Jays (34-4) to a third-place finish in the Class 4 state tournament this past season. Brown compiled a record of 20-2 in the circle with a 1.12 ERA and 253 strikeouts. She also batted .470 with 61 RBI and nine home runs. A three-time Gateway Conference Player of the Year, she was named First Team All-State for the second straight season.

A member of her school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Brown has volunteered locally offering pitching instructions to youth softball players. She also has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "In the circle, she possesses all the tools to be an elite pitcher," said Warrenton High School head coach Chad Berrey. "She is a commanding presence and competes regardless of how big or small the situation. All in all, she's the best softball player in Missouri and is probably the best all-around player I have ever coached against."

Brown has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Texas A&M University beginning in the fall of 2024.

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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Missouri Softball Players of the Year Cierra Harrison (2021-22, Lee's Summit North High School), Julia Crenshaw (2020-21, Fort Zumwalt West High School), Mac Morgan (2019-20, Sherwood High School), and Makenna Kliethermes (2018-19, Blair Oaks High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.