

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

**CHICAGO** (June 7, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Taylor Brown** of **Washington High School** is the **2023-24 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 celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Brown as Missouri's best high school softball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Amanda Freed (1997-98, Pacifica High School, Calif.), Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.) and Ava Brown (2022-23 & 2021-22, Lake Creek High School, Texas).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-10 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Blue Jays to a 38-1-1 record and the 4A state championship this past season. Brown compiled a 24-0 record with a 0.50 ERA and a program-record 263 strikeouts. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch Metro Player of the Year, she also batted .548 with 62 RBI and 16 home runs.

A member of her school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, Brown has volunteered locally with Link Crew, a student orientation leadership council. She also has donated her time as a softball coach at Washington School youth camps in addition to offering pitching lessons to elementary and middle school girls in Franklin County. "Taylor Brown is a phenomenal player," said Brooke Petry, head coach at Fort Zumwalt East High School. "Her speed and ability to move the ball make her a threat. She also has great off-speed pitches as well."

Brown has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Texas A&M University 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.

Two-time winner 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) and Mac Morgan (2019-20, Sherwood High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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 \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 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 Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).