

SOUTH BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 7, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Kina Davis** of **South Brunswick High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade North Carolina Softball Player of the Year**. Davis is the first Gatorade North Carolina Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Brunswick 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 Davis as North Carolina'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 5-foot-6 junior right-handed pitcher led the Cougars (27-4) to the Class 3A state title this past season. A two-time returning All-State selection, Davis compiled a 21-4 record in the circle to go with 15 shutouts, five no-hitters and a 0.49 ERA. The Class 3A Pitcher of the Year, she fanned 340 batters in 172.2 innings and walked just 18. At the plate, she batted .419 with 11 home runs and 41 RBI, posting an OPS of 1.363.

A devoted parishioner of her church community, Davis is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA), which promotes career opportunities in the healthcare industry and works to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare to all people. She has also donated her time as private instructor and camp counselor for youth softball players. "Kina Davis is definitely one of the strongest pitchers we faced this year," said Matthew Lovely, head coach at Richlands High School. "She is a master at her craft, has excellent ball control and maintains her composure in the circle like a true professional. Expect to see her on ESPN one day."

Davis has maintained a 4.16 GPA in the classroom. She has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at UNC-Charlotte in the fall of 2025.

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.

Davis joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Softball Players of the Year Karli Godwin (2022-23, East Columbus High School), Kierston Deal (2021-22, East Forsyth High School), Karlyn Pickens (2020-21, North Buncombe High School) and Kenna Raye Dark (2019-20, Eastern Alamance 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.