

**POCOLA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Allyssa Parker** of **Pocola High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Player of the Year**. Parker is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pocola 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 Parker as Oklahoma’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-11 junior right-handed pitcher led the Indians to a 35-8 record and a berth in the Class 2A championship game this past season. Parker compiled a 17-4 record in the circle with a 0.79 ERA in 123 innings pitched, striking out 172 batters and limiting opponents to a 0.618 WHIP. She also batted .377 with 12 home runs, 39 RBI and 52 runs scored. She added 25 stolen bases and posted a 1.594 OPS. Ranked as the nation’s No. 8 prospect in the Class of 2025 by Extra Innings Softball, she is a three-time All-Conference selection.

A member of both the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Parker has volunteered locally serving food at a homeless shelter and as a youth softball coach. “If I were starting a team, I think my first pick would be Parker,” said Lacy Darity, head coach at Mustang High School. “She’s a really good pitcher, but she is dangerous at the plate, too—maybe the most feared hitter in the state. She’d definitely be my first choice to build a team around.”

Parker has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma 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.

Parker joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Softball Players of the Year Karissa Fiegenger (2022-23 & 2021-22, Piedmont High School), Emmy Guthrie (2020-21, Lone Grove High School) and McKenzie Wagoner (2019-20, Newcastle 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.