

SUMMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH 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 **Ansley Bennett** of **Summerville High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year**. Bennett is the first Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Summerville 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 Bennett as South 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 junior right-handed pitcher and utility player led the Green Wave to a 30-0 record and their second consecutive Class 5A state championship this past season. Bennett compiled a 16-0 record in the circle with a 0.16 earned run average over 89 innings pitched. She struck out 180 batters against just 11 walks, surrendering only 23 hits. Bennett also batted .533 with 13 home runs, 41 RBI and an OPS of 1.706. Ranked as the nation's No. 8 prospect in the Class of 2025 by Extra Innings Softball, she is a two-time Class 5A Player of the Year and three-time Region 7-5A Player of the Year.

Bennett has volunteered locally with Lowcountry Orphan Relief, a nonprofit that provides goods and services to children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. She has also donated her time to Hearts For Summerville, a local charity serving youth in their community. "Bennett is just really in a class of her own right now," said Alecia Robinson, head coach at Oceanside Collegiate Academy. "Her ability to thrive on the mound, in the field and at the plate is unlike anything I've seen at this level in high school. You see quality kids, but no one that is as successful as she is as a true utility player."

Bennett has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. She has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Two-time winner Bennett joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Softball Players of the Year Sarah Gordon (2021-22, Lexington High School), Haylee Whitesides (2020-21, Byrnes High School) and Kylee Gleason (2019-20, May River 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.

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