

EAST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Sela Rodriguez of East Anchorage High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Rodriguez as Alaska's best high school softball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.), Ava Brown (2022-23, Lake Creek High School, Texas) and Addisen Fisher (2023-24, Bend High School, Oregon).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-8 junior right-handed pitcher and third baseman had led the Thunderbirds to an 18-4 record this season and a berth in Alaska’s Division I state tournament. Rodriguez posted a 14-3 record in the circle through 22 games with a 0.979 ERA, striking out 159 batters across 78.2 innings. At the plate, Rodriguez entered the postseason batting .603 with 11 home runs, 49 RBI and 25 runs scored, compiling a .641 on-base percentage, a 1.466 slugging percentage and a 2.106 OPS. The returning Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year, she was named the Cook Inlet Conference MVP and USA Softball Alaska All-Tournament MVP.

Rodriguez has volunteered locally as a youth softball instructor. “Sela is a great athlete that’s a problem for opponents whether she is in the circle or in the batter’s box,” said Anchorage South High School head coach Brandon McCutcheon. “She hits for high average and power. Any time she connects with the bat you hope it’s not a home run. In the circle, she keeps the batters guessing with her spin pitches and effective change-up.”

Rodriguez has maintained a 3.69 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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