

CAPE HENLOPEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Ava Calciano of Cape Henlopen High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Delaware 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 Calciano as Delaware'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).

The 5-foot-6 senior shortstop led the Vikings to a 19-2 record and a trip to the state quarterfinals this past season. Calciano batted .538 with four home runs, 18 RBI and 39 runs scored, compiling a .707 on-base percentage, a .942 slugging percentage and a 1.650 OPS. She drew 28 walks while striking out just five times, and posted a .420 isolated power percentage. A three-time Henlopen Conference Player of the Year and two-time First Team All-State selection, Calciano is ranked as the nation's No. 46 prospect in the Class of 2025 by Extra Innings Softball.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the National Honor Society, Calciano has volunteered locally with the Delaware Food Bank. She also serves as a youth softball instructor. "Calciano looked above every high school athlete that I saw this year," said Smyrna High School head coach Nina Marciano. "She's a triple threat. She can hit for power or drive (the ball up the) middle. She can steal bases and she makes extremely athletic plays at shortstop appear as if they're routine. She has great sportsmanship and class as well, and leads her team not only vocally, but by example. She's a pleasure to compete against."

Calciano has maintained a 101.1 weighted average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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