

PACE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Hannah DeMarcus of Pace High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Florida 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 DeMarcus as Florida'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-8 sophomore right-handed pitcher posted a 23-3 record with a 0.32 earned run average this past season, leading the Patriots (24-4) to the Class 6A state championship game. DeMarcus struck out 418 batters in 175 innings pitched, allowing just 40 hits and 33 walks. In her first year with the varsity, she recorded nine no-hitters, including two perfect games, and struck out at least 10 batters in all 26 of her starts with a high of 24 in a nine-inning no-hitter against Jay High School.

DeMarcus has won a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Award for her commitment to integrity, leadership and service. She has volunteered locally as an aide at area middle schools and she has donated her time to multiple community service activities through her church youth group. "Hannah was as good as a pitcher that I have seen in years," said Brian Watson, head coach of Jay High School. "What made her stand out was her command of the strike zone. This Pace team was not a great offensive group. Hannah singlehandedly kept them in the game. She took Pace from an above-average team to one of the state's best. It's truly remarkable the season she had."

DeMarcus has maintained a weighted 4.19 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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](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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