

WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Brynley Erb of Western High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Indiana 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 Erb as Indiana’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-4 junior shortstop had led the Panthers to a 26-3 record and a berth in the Class 3A regional championship game. Erb batted .679 with 21 home runs, 56 runs scored and 53 RBI through 29 games. The 2024 Indianapolis Star Player of the Year, who led Western to the Class 3A state title last spring, she compiled 15 doubles, seven triples and 15 stolen bases entering the regional final, posting a .736 on-base percentage and an OPS of 2.551.

Erb has volunteered locally for the Western High School concession stand during sporting events and she has donated her time as a youth softball and volleyball coach. “Brynley is an absolute stud,” said Chauncey Fry, head coach of West Lafayette High School. “She’s as good as I’ve seen in my 13-year coaching career at the plate, in the field and on the bases. She has the speed, bat and defense to compete with anyone in the country.”

Erb has maintained a 3.31 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play softball at the University of Kentucky beginning in the fall of 2026.

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](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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