

SOUTH WARREN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 McLaine Hudson of South Warren High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Kentucky 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 Hudson as Kentucky'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 Spartans (34-3) to the 4th Region championship and a berth in the state tournament. Hudson entered the tournament batting .618 with 63 RBI and 20 home runs. The 4th Region Player of the Year and Golden Glove winner also scored 82 runs, stole 28 bases in 28 attempts and compiled a 2.006 OPS through 37 games.

A student council representative, Hudson has volunteered locally with the South Warren Middle School softball team, working with younger players on fundamentals and leading drills in practice. She has also donated her time to multiple events on behalf of the Down Syndrome of Southern Kentucky Buddy House. "She's the spark plug on a team with a lot of depth," said Penny Reece, head coach at Bowling Green High School. "Her hustle, her composure, her discipline and her obvious love for the game separates her from the ordinary."

Hudson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship 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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