

BRAINERD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Mya Tautges of Brainerd High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Minnesota 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 Tautges as Minnesota'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 6-foot senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Warriors (17-6) to the Class AAAA Section 8 title and the state quarterfinals. Tautges posted a 17-6 record in the circle with a 0.28 ERA through 23 games, compiling a 0.58 WHIP while striking out 228 batters and walking just 26 in 125 innings. She entered the postseason round of eight batting .480 with nine home runs, 24 RBI and 30 runs, recording an OPS of 1.509 and an isolated power percentage of .547.

Tautges has volunteered locally on behalf of the Outreach Program of the Brainerd Lakes Area, The Lighthouse Project, Smiles for Jake and the Madi Finnegan Memorial Foundation. "Mya is a three-sport athlete and the best softball player I've coached in 26 years, and I have coached 12 players who've gone on to play at the Division I level and countless others who've played collegiately," said Shane Jordan, head coach at Brainerd High School. "Her competitive spirit is unmatched. She was a unanimous selection by all 29 Brainerd High School head coaches for Warrior Athlete of the Year—a feat we believe to be the first time in school history. Not only is she the best athlete I've coached, she is the hardest-working."

Tautges has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball on scholarship at the University of St. Thomas 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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