LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Abby Carr of Lafayette High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Missouri 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 Carr as Missouri's best high school softball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such 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 6-foot senior right-handed pitcher led the Lancers (25-6-1) to the Class 5 state championship last season. Carr finished with a 23-0 record and a 0.24 earned run average, striking out 304 batters against just 26 walks in 144.2 innings pitched. She posted a WHIP of 0.533. She also batted .476 with 29 RBI, 10 home runs and 35 runs scored, recording an OPS of 1.590. She was named the Suburban St. Louis Conference Player of the Year.

A member of the Lafayette Athletic Leadership Council, Carr has volunteered locally with the Kendall Johnson Foundation, which seeks to support and empower individuals by providing opportunities for personal and athletic growth, particularly in the realm of softball. She has also donated her time to the Special Olympics and as a member of PE Mentors, helping kids with disabilities. "She had no weaknesses in the circle this year," said Mark Mosley, Eureka High School head coach. "She was pretty untouchable—threw any pitch she wanted with accuracy and velocity. The offense was built around her and thrived on her success—she didn't just dominate in the circle, she did it in the batter's box, too."

Carr has maintained a 3.8 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at the University of Missouri 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X (Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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