

HELENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Faith Howard of Helena High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Montana 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 Howard as Montana'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-7 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Bengals (17-4) to a first-place finish in the AA Western Conference and a trip to the AA state tournament this past season. Howard went 15-2 in the circle with a 1.42 ERA, 225 strikeouts and 0.81 WHIP in 123.2 innings pitched. The Western AA Defensive Player of the Year, she also hit .323 with 13 RBI.

Howard has volunteered locally on behalf of Bengal Buddies, a program in which high school students help and mentor elementary school students. She has also donated her time as a certified nursing assistant at an elderly care facility. "She was just absolutely dominant in every sense of the word, with a solid change and rise ball that she could use in any count," said Brittany Williams, head coach at Flathead High School. "Good pitching is really hard to come by, and something has to be said for her consistency throughout the regular season and leading Helena to their first conference title in [35] years."

Howard has maintained a 3.8 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at Montana State University-Billings 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 or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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