

PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Taylor Johns of Palo Verde High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Nevada 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 Johns as Nevada'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-6 junior middle infielder led the Panthers to a 25-0 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season. Johns batted .642 with 44 runs scored and 39 RBI. Johns connected for 11 home runs, 12 doubles and seven triples, compiling a .703 on-base percentage and a 2.225 OPS. In the field, she committed just two errors.

A member of the Palo Verde High School student council, Johns has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. “Taylor led her team to an undefeated season, played a great shortstop and can flat-out hit the ball,” said Mike Livreri, head coach of Centennial High School. “She’s a great player.”

Johns has maintained a weighted 4.16 GPA in the classroom. She has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play softball at the University of Georgia 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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X (Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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