

HAVERLING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Kaili Witherall of Haverling High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade New York 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 Witherall as New York’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-5 senior right-handed pitcher had led the Rams to an 18-3 record and a berth in the Class B state tournament. Witherall posted a 15-3 mark with a 0.73 earned run average through 20 games. She allowed just 59 hits and 14 walks while striking out 206 batters in 105 innings pitched. Offensively, the 2024 Section V Class B Player of the Year entered the postseason with a .552 batting average and 23 runs scored along with six doubles and a .776 slugging percentage. She began the tournament with 1,062 strikeouts in her prep softball career.

The president of the Haverling High School student council, Witherall has volunteered locally with Project CARE, a program that assists the elderly with every-day tasks, and as a youth softball coach. “Kaili has been outstanding for Haverling and their softball program,” said Dave Stewart, head coach of Wayland-Cohocton High School. “Not only is she an extremely tough pitcher, she is their lead-off hitter and is an extremely hard out. She can simply take over games, not only pitching, but with her bat.”

Witherall has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at Texas State University 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](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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