

LA SALLE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Phoenix Silva of La Salle Academy is the 2024-25 Gatorade Rhode Island 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 Silva as Rhode Island'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-7 senior third baseman had led the Rams (24-1) to the No. 1 seed in the Division I state tournament and a berth in the state championship game. Silva entered the state final batting .571 with 39 RBI, 21 home runs and an OPS of 2.208. The state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, she also drew 18 walks and struck out just twice in 96 plate appearances to post a slugging percentage of 1.455 through 25 games.

Silva has volunteered locally as a chemistry tutor and youth softball instructor. She has also donated her time as a regular visitor to residents of a nursing home, where her grandmother is also a resident. "Phoenix is a once-in-a-lifetime player here in Rhode Island," said Paul Bessette, Cranston West High School head coach. "Her defense has improved 100 percent and her offense speaks for itself. She's also a true leader and a nice kid on top of it."

Silva has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at the University of Iowa 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.

###