

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 9, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Madelyn Mescher of Washington High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade South Dakota 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 Mescher as South Dakota'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-9 sophomore right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Warriors to a 16-2 record and a berth in the Class AA state tournament this season. Mescher compiled a 10-2 record in the circle with 159 strikeouts against just 11 walks through 18 games, fanning 2.0 batters per inning. She fired two shutouts, including a perfect game, and posted a 1.42 ERA as opposing hitters batted .151 against her. At the plate, the 2024 All-State selection entered the state tournament batting .471 with 21 RBI and an OPS of 1.313.

Mescher has volunteered locally on behalf of Best Buddies and her school's Link Crew. She is also a member of the Student Council, the SALSA service leadership club and the Principal's Advisory Committee. "Maddy is one of the nicest and most mature people you will meet," said Sioux Falls Washington High School head coach Kim Bazata. "She is kind to everyone, works so hard and her positive attitude is contagious on the team. She's overcome hip, leg and thumb fractures over the past two years and it took incredible determination to get back (to this level). She plays games and practices like they could be her last."

Mescher has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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