

WEST JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE UTAH 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 Rita Tavita of West Jordan High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Utah 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 Tavita as Utah'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-10 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Jaguars to a 24-4 record and the Class 5A state championship this past season, marking the program’s first state title. Tavita batted .557 with 15 home runs, 41 RBI, 39 runs scored and 14 stolen bases. In the circle, the Class 5A-Region IV Most Valuable Player posted a 20-2 mark with a 1.56 earned run average, striking out 145 batters in 125.1 innings pitched.

Tavita was a featured soloist and won first place in the Samoan section at the Pacific Islander Performing Arts Competition. She has volunteered locally with the Embraced Wellness Day Program, which supports adults with special needs. She has also donated her time as a youth softball coach. “Rita is probably the most tenacious player I have ever met,” said McHailee Danner, head coach of West Jordan High School. “She meets everything head on and wants the ball 100-percent of the time. She commands attention defensively and offensively.”

Tavita has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at Brigham Young 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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