

CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Audrea Watts of Cabell Midland High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia 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 Watts as West Virginia'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-5 junior right-handed pitcher led the Knights (29-3) to a 13-game winning streak this past season to close out the year with the AAAA state championship. Watts went 22-1 in the circle with a 0.86 earned run average and struck out 281 batters in 138.2 innings pitched, retiring 68 percent of opposing batters by way of the K en route to a 0.71 WHIP. She also batted .333 with 15 RBI.

Watts has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth softball coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "She has absolutely dominated in the circle the past three years, and has done so against some of the most talented young ladies and teams throughout the tri-state area," said Stacey "Bub" Hobbs, head coach at George Washington High School. "She is an exceptional young lady and a fantastic player, both in the circle and at the plate."

Watts has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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 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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