

## **HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Will Adams of Hoover High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Alabama Baseball 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 excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Adams as Alabama's best high school baseball player and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park, TX), MacKenzie Gore (2016-17, Whiteville High School, NC) and Seth Hernandez (2024-25, Corona High School, CA).

The 6-foot-2, 210-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Buccaneers (24-17) to the Area round of the Class 7A playoffs this past season. Adams batted .489 with 52 RBI and 13 home runs, scoring 37 runs. A USA Baseball 18U National Team training camp invitee, he also posted a record of 4-0 on the mound with 55 strikeouts in 36.1 innings pitched as opposing batters hit .179 against him.

Adams has volunteered locally at the A.G. Gaston Boys & Girls Club and as a Hoover High School Peer Helper, assisting students in various capacities across the school system. He has also donated his time to the Teens Need Teens Club, which involves speaking at Hoover schools to educate students on the dangers of substance abuse and strategies to seek help. "He's a five-tool guy—he hits for average and power, can play first base or outfield, has a really strong arm and he can run," said Taylor Hayes, head coach at Jacksonville High School. "He's also throwing 90-92 mph off the mound from the left side. Great teammate and student."

Adams has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Louisiana State University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in July's Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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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