

## **CONWAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 Shaun Cover of Conway High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Arkansas 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 Cover as Arkansas' 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 5-foot-10, 200-pound senior shortstop led the Wampus Cats (26-4) to the Class 6A state semifinals this past season. Cover batted .500 with 31 RBI and 48 runs scored, blasting eight home runs and posting a program single-season record .642 on-base percentage. A 6A All-State and First Team All-Central Conference selection, he concluded his prep career as Conway's leader in batting average (.466), home runs (24), hits (163), OBP (.563), doubles (45) and extra-base hits (73).

Cover has volunteered locally as a Conway Baseball Big Brother. He has also donated his time to various community service initiatives with his school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "Cover had five home runs against us in about eight at-bats, from what I can remember," said Cody Dillon, head coach at North Little Rock High School, "He was almost impossible to get out."

Cover has maintained a 4.0 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Southern Mississippi this fall.

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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