

**HARVARD-WESTLAKE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE
NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF
THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced James Tronstein of Harvard-Westlake School is the 2025-26 Gatorade California 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 Tronstein as California’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 senior 6-foot, 185-pound shortstop led the Wolverines (26-6) to a berth in the CIF Southern Section Division I semifinals this past season. Tronstein batted .531 with 10 homers, 29 RBI and 21 extra-base hits, scoring 46 runs. Ranked as the nation's No. 22 prospect in his class by Prep Baseball Report, he’s ranked as the No. 48 overall prospect in the upcoming MLB draft by Perfect Game and the No. 131 prospect by ESPN. Baseball America ranks him the No. 166 overall draft prospect. The 2026 Mission League MVP and a 2024 Prep Baseball Report All-American Game invitee, he was also a two-time member of USA Baseball’s 15U National Team (2022 and 2023).

Tronstein has volunteered locally with Ace of Hearts Dog Rescue and Our Big Food Kitchen Los Angeles, a community-run nonprofit. Tronstein has also donated his time to the American Heart Association and Altadena Little League. “He was the best player in the Mission League, which was top-to-bottom the best league,” said Brett Kay, head coach at J Serra Catholic High School. “I don’t think he’s had a bad game all season. Tronstein is the engine that starts it all for that Harvard-Westlake team.”

Tronstein has maintained a 3.65 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Vanderbilt University 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 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.

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