

**FAIRFIELD COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Ryan Ventrelle of Fairfield College Preparatory School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Connecticut 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 Ventrelle as Connecticut’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).

At the time of his selection, the 5-foot-10, 178-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher had led the Jesuits (21-1) to the Southern Connecticut Conference championship game. Ventrelle batted .500 through 22 games with two home runs, 30 RBI, 31 runs scored, 10 stolen bases and a 1.410 OPS. On the mound, he went 2-0 with 15 strikeouts in 15.2 innings. A 2025 GametimeCT Second Team All-State selection, he’s ranked as Connecticut’s No. 4 high school prospect in his class by Baseball America and No. 49 in New England by Prep Baseball.

A National Honor Society member, Ventrelle has volunteered locally with Fairfield Red Storm Challenger Baseball, which serves players with physical and intellectual challenges. He has fundraised for cancer research through A Shot For Life in addition to serving in Peer Ministry and as a faith-based Kairos Retreat leader. “We’ve played against Ventrelle for the past few years and he has always been a standout player with great character as Fairfield Prep’s starting shortstop,” said RJ Voelker, head coach of Hillhouse High School.

Ventrelle has maintained a 4.1 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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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