

**SUSSEX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Osiah Kelley of Sussex Central High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Delaware 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 Kelley as Delaware’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 6-foot, 180-pound senior shortstop had led the Golden Knights to an 11-6 record and a berth in the state postseason tournament. Kelley batted .526 with 13 extra-base hits, 13 RBI and 21 runs scored. Ranked as the nation’s No. 229 prospect in his class by Prep Baseball, including No. 1 DE/MD, he posted an on-base percentage of .630 and stole 12 bases through 17 games. He was named a 2026 to the Perfect Game Preseason All-NorthEast Region First Team.

Kelley has volunteered locally at the Howard T. Ennis School for students with special needs, helping with bowling trips, Special Olympics events and various other initiatives. He has also donated his time to the MERIT Program, which offers STEM learning opportunities to minority youth. “Osiah is a great baseball player,” said G.L. Jefferson, Sussex Tech High School head coach. “He can hit for power and for average and his speed makes even routine ground balls a nightmare for any defense. Osiah puts pressure on opposing outfielders to take great angles because he can easily turn a single into an extra-base hit and when he’s on base, everyone in the stadium knows he is stealing within the first three pitches, yet he’s still safe more often than not.”

Kelley has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Maryland 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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