

SOUTH WALTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Coleman Borthwick of South Walton High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Florida 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 Borthwick as Florida'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-6, 255 pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop led the Seahawks (30-4) to their first ever Class 3A state championship this past season. Borthwick compiled a 10-0 record with a 0.21 ERA on the mound, striking out 121 batters against just seven walks in 65.2 innings pitched. Ranked as the nation's No. 7 prospect in the Class of 2026 by Prep Baseball Report, he's a 2026 Baseball America Preseason First Team All-American and a 2025 USA Baseball 18U World Cup gold medalist. He also batted .460 with nine home runs, 34 RBI, 30 runs scored and a 1.498 OPS.

Borthwick has volunteered at Hawks baseball camps in addition to donating his time by mentoring youth players and coaching a 13-and-under baseball team. "I love everything about Coleman Borthwick," said Jason McBride, head coach at Pace High School. "He's a competitor. He plays the game hard. He has great stuff on the mound. If he's not a first-rounder, then I don't know what a first-rounder looks like. He can beat you on the mound as well as at the plate. I would definitely consider taking him first to build a team. I think he's the right guy to consider for the award. I haven't seen anyone better around here."

Borthwick has maintained a 3.72 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Auburn 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 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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