

LINN-MAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Charlie Sarsfield of Linn-Mar High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Iowa 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 Sarsfield as Iowa'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 5-foot-11, 175-pound junior outfielder led the Lions to the Class 4A substate title game last season, which they concluded with 20 wins and 21 losses. Sarsfield batted .435 with three home runs, 27 RBI, 40 runs scored and a 1.272 OPS. Ranked as the nation's No. 60 prospect in the Class of 2027 by Perfect Game and a 2026 Perfect Game Preseason All-Central Region Underclass All-American, he also earned MVP honors at the 2024 Perfect Game WWBA World Junior Championships.

Sarsfield has volunteered locally conducting bible study sessions at his local church. He has also donated his time as a youth baseball coach and on behalf of his local American Legion Hall distributing meals to veterans. "Charlie is an absolute game-changer," said Uby Martinez, head coach at Liberty High School. "Any ball hit in his direction in the air is an out. He is probably the most feared hitter in our league because he hits for power, average and he's an absolute menace on the bases. He's been a starter in the outfield since eighth grade and he's been a problem for opposing teams ever since then. He is definitely a five-tool player and, in my opinion, the best player in the state."

Sarsfield has maintained a 3.3 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas beginning in the fall of 2027.

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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