

MILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Beau Peterson of Mill Valley High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Kansas 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 Peterson as Kansas' 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-3, 200-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher led the Jaguars (24-5) to the Class 6A tournament quarterfinals this past season. Peterson batted .535, ripping 19 doubles to go with two triples, three home runs and 37 RBI to compile a 1.536 OPS. He also stole 26 bases in 29 attempts, scored 37 runs, struck out only five times vs. 28 walks in 120 plate appearances, producing an on-base percentage of .650. Ranked as Baseball America's No. 54 overall prospect in July's Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft, Peterson went 2-0 in his first 12 innings on the mound this spring, posting a 0.00 ERA and fanning 20 batters without issuing a walk before a hamate bone injury derailed his season on the mound; he finished 2-2. He had a .985 fielding percentage at shortstop. Ranked as the nation's No. 11 high school prospect in his class by Prep Baseball Report, he led Mill Valley High School to the 6A East Regional title earlier this spring and won the MLB Home Run Derby contest last summer.

Peterson is a devoted parishioner of the Westside Family Church and has participated for the past two years in goodwill visits to a children's hospital in Fort Myers, Florida, in association with Children's Mercy and Perfect Game Select. He has also volunteered locally as an instructor at Mill Valley High School Baseball camps in addition to donating his time on behalf of fundraising efforts to cure brain cancer and Leukemia/Lymphoma. He has served as a youth baseball umpire as well. "No one in our program works harder than Beau," said Mill Valley High School head coach Jeff Strickland. "Since the day he entered our program, he's been a leader by example. Opponents have typically tried to pitch around him, which makes his performance all the more remarkable. Beau just wants the team to win. That selflessness is rare in 2026. His maturation as a player and person is extremely gratifying as a coach and one would be hard-pressed to find a player more talented in the state of Kansas."

Peterson has maintained a 3.18 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Texas this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in the MLB 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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