

## **TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Grayson Willoughby of Trinity High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Kentucky 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 Willoughby as Kentucky’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-2, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher and infielder had led the Shamrocks to a 36-3 record and the 7th Region Tournament championship game. Entering the regional final, Willoughby owned a .478 batting average with 34 RBI, 28 runs and a .566 on-base percentage. Ranked as the nation’s No. 43 prospect in his class by Prep Baseball Report, he compiled a record of 9-0 over 43.1 innings on the mound with a 0.97 ERA, fanning 70 batters through 38 games.

Willoughby has volunteered locally at St. Margaret Mary School, assisting teachers by helping kindergartners and first graders with their schoolwork. He has also donated his time at the Franciscan Kitchen in Louisville, serving food to the needy. “Trinity has faced top teams in the state as well as outside the state and Willoughby has been dominant against some of the best competition you can find,” said Jordan Tarrence, head coach at Henry Clay High School. “Against us, he threw 10 pitches—nine strikes—and struck out the side. He was [throwing] 96-97 mph. It was one of the most dominant innings I’ve seen in my coaching career.”

Willoughby has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Kentucky 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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