

**CEDAR CREEK SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Kade Luker of Cedar Creek School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Louisiana 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 Luker as Louisiana’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-1, 185-pound junior left-handed pitcher and first baseman posted a 10-1 record with a 1.04 earned run average this past season, leading the Cougars (27-7) to the Select Division IV state semifinals. Luker struck out 135 batters while allowing just 38 hits and 19 walks in 74 innings. Ranked as the nation’s No. 61 recruit in the Class of 2027 by Prep Baseball Report compiled a .531 batting average with 48 runs scored, 36 RBI and 28 stolen bases. A 2025 Shreveport Times All-Area selection, he is a two-time Ruston Daily Leader Pitcher of the Year.

Luker has volunteered locally with Tim Tebow’s Night to Shine and has donated his time as a youth baseball coach. “Kade Luker was the best pitcher we faced by far,” said Beaux Waddell, head coach of Calvary Baptist Academy. “He was also the best hitter and toughest out we faced all year.”

Luker has maintained a weighted 3.74 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball at Louisiana State University 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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