

**MAGNOLIA HEIGHTS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE  
NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Cole Prosek of Magnolia Heights School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Mississippi 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 Prosek as Mississippi'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, 195-pound senior third baseman, catcher and right-handed pitcher led the Chiefs (36-4-1) to the MAIS 4A Division I state championship this past season. Prosek batted .595 with 18 home runs, 79 RBI, 62 runs scored and a 1.899 OPS. He compiled a 7-1 record on the mound with a 3.16 ERA and a 67-15 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 57.2 innings. Ranked as the nation's No. 23 prospect in the Class of 2026 by Perfect Game, Prosek was the MVP of the 2025 Perfect Game All-American Classic. He is two-time MAIS Player of the Year and the 2026 Mississippi Don Sauder Award as the state's top scholar-athlete.

Prosek has volunteered locally with a tornado cleanup last April. He has also served as a mentor to local elementary school students and has donated his time as a youth baseball instructor. "Fortunately and unfortunately, I've had the opportunity of watching Prosek play since he was a ninth grader. From then to now, he sets himself apart on the field from the way he approaches the game," said Bruce Branch, Pillow Academy head coach. "It's more than just baseball. It's who the kid is, too. You don't find guys this humble and respected like he is around the state or around the country. In that regard, he's well-deserving. From a player perspective, (he's got everything) stat-wise as well as the competitor he is on the field. His mentality is: No one is going to beat him."

Prosek has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Mississippi 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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