

**BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Tyler Putnam of Battle High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Missouri 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 Putnam as Missouri’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-6, 205-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman posted a .486 batting average with 12 home runs and 39 RBI this past season, leading the Spartans (11-19) to the Class 6, District 5 Tournament quarterfinals. Putnam drew 37 walks and scored 34 runs, recording a .652 on-base percentage and a 1.083 slugging percentage. On the mound, the four-time Central Missouri Activities Conference selection was 2-1 with a 1.38 earned run average and 81 strikeouts in 40.2 innings.

A senior leader in his local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Putnam has volunteered locally as a youth baseball and basketball coach. “Tyler is a generational player,” said Jeff Bazat, head coach of Rock Bridge High School. “He’s a complete pitcher, but as good as his pitching is, he might be a better hitter. I haven’t seen someone as talented (in both facets) ever in mid-Missouri.”

Putnam has maintained a weighted 4.17 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Tennessee this fall.

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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