

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Derek Yormack of John F. Kennedy High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade New York 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 Yormack as New York'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-3, 215-pound junior right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Cougars to a 19-4 record and a berth in the Section VIII, Class AA tournament championship series. Yormack posted a 6-0 mark through 33.2 innings on the mound with a 0.42 ERA, fanning 65 batters while allowing just 14 hits and six walks. At the plate, the 2025 Class AA First Team All-State selection owned a .439 batting average through 23 games with eight home runs, 24 RBI and a .955 slugging percentage.

Yormack has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach and has donated his time on behalf of the Special Olympics. "Derek is a dominant pitcher," said Art Canestro, head coach of Calhoun High School. "He's also a very good hitter and a complete player. I think he will get drafted as a pitcher next year."

Yormack has maintained a weighted A average in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play baseball at Vanderbilt 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.

###