

FORT WORTH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Grady Emerson of Fort Worth Christian School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Texas 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 Emerson as Texas’ 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-2, 180-pound senior shortstop led the Cardinals (33-7-1) to the Texas Association of Private & Parochial Schools Division II state championship game this past season. Emerson batted .508 with 56 RBI and eight home runs and 61 runs scored, posting an OPS of 1.549 and an ISO power percentage of .407. He also stole 34 bases on 35 attempts. Ranked as the nation’s No. 1 prospect in his class by Perfect Game, he struck out just five times in 161 plate appearances and committed only a single error in 147 total chances at shortstop for a 99.3 fielding percentage.

Emerson has volunteered at North Texas Foodbank and Mission Arlington. He has also donated his time by organizing and leading youth baseball training sessions and defensive coaching camps. In association with his parents’ company, Always Family Senior Home Care, he delivers home care services throughout the holiday season. “What stood out immediately was how complete a player he is,” said Roger Kieschnick, head coach at All Saints’ Episcopal School. “Beyond the tools and production, what impressed me most was how he played the game. His instincts, base running, communication with teammates and overall presence on the field separates him. He plays the game the right way and carries himself with a high level of confidence and competitiveness while still showing respect for opponents and the game itself.”

Emerson has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Texas this fall, but is projected as a first-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 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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