

SEATTLE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Eli Herst of Seattle Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Washington 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 Herst as Washington’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-5, 225-pound senior right-handed pitcher and infielder led the Cardinals to a 12-10-2 record this past season. Herst compiled a 4-0 record on the mound in 55.1 innings, posting a 0.89 ERA with 98 strikeouts and 16 walks, averaging 1.8 Ks per inning. Ranked as the nation’s No. 55 prospect in his class by Prep Baseball, the Metro League MVP batted .477 with 17 RBI, 18 runs scored and three home runs.

A member of the Seattle Academy Cardinal Council, a student-athlete leadership committee, Herst has volunteered locally as a coach and umpire for Seattle Central Little League. He has also donated his time serving as a Seattle Academy summer camp counselor. “He was extremely dominant because of his ability to tunnel four pitches—four-seam fastball, two-seam fastball, slider, changeup—which he throws with conviction and confidence in any count,” said Timothy Lee, Ingraham High School head coach. “Our guys struggled with his changeup the most. And he’s a very dangerous high school hitter.”

Herst has maintained a 4.04 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Vanderbilt University 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 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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