

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Dominic Santarelli of St. Joseph Catholic Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Wisconsin 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 Santarelli as Wisconsin’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-1, 230-pound senior first baseman and outfielder had led the Lancers to a 19-6 record and a berth in the Division 2, Sectional 3B tournament semifinals. Santarelli posted a .591 batting average through 25 games with seven home runs, 56 runs scored and 39 stolen bases. Entering the sectional semis, he’d banded out 20 extra-base hits, drawn 29 walks and driven in 30 runs, compiling a .717 on-base percentage and a slugging percentage of 1.182. He was named the 2025 Wisconsin Player of the Year by Prep Baseball.

Santarelli has volunteered locally with Feed My Starving Children and as a youth baseball coach. He’s also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his school. “Dominic Santarelli is one of the most dominating players I’ve ever faced at the high school level,” said Jeff Wilson, head coach of the Prairie School/Racine Lutheran co-op team. “He’s one of those guys who our players actually look forward to playing because he’s an excellent example of what you need to have to play at the next level.”

Santarelli has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball on scholarship at Louisiana State University 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](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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