

## **TUTTLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Hunter Watson of Tuttle High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Oklahoma 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 Watson as Oklahoma'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, 205-pound senior right-handed pitcher, first baseman and catcher led the Tigers (39-4) to the Class 4A state championship this past season. Watson compiled a record of 6-0 on the mound with an ERA of 0.23, fanning 55 batters and walking just six in 29.1 innings pitched. He homered in all three of the team's state tournament games and finished with eight long balls along with a .505 batting average, 45 RBI and 31 runs.

Watson has volunteered locally with the Miracle League, which allows children with disabilities to safely play baseball. He has also donated his time at Tuttle Middle School, where he helps students who need to catch up on their schoolwork. "What he did on the mound and at the plate was impressive," said Cody Troyer, head coach at Life Preparatory Academy in Kansas. "He took us deep (to the opposite field) when we faced off. He also pitched against us and pitched with no fear, which I respect a lot. I feel like he always had so many eyes on him and he handled it very well."

Watson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Oklahoma 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](https://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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