

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 1, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Carson Bolemon of Southside Christian School is the 2025-26 Gatorade South Carolina 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 Bolemon as South Carolina'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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Bolemon had led the Sabres (24-8-1) to a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three Class 3A state championships series. A 6-foot-4, 220-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman, he compiled a 7-0 record and a 0.17 ERA on the mound through 33 games, fanning 91 batters in 41.1 innings and hurling five shutouts including two no-hitters. Entering Game 2 of the title series, he'd issued only 13 walks for a WHIP of 0.58 and opponents were batting .083 against him. He also batted .360 with nine doubles, two triples and three homers to post an OPS of 1.070. Ranked as the nation's No. 3 high school prospect in his class by Prep Baseball Report and the No. 54 overall prospect in July's Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft, he helped the USA Baseball 18U National Team win the World Championship in 2025.

Bolemon has volunteered locally on behalf of the Miracle League, serving special needs kids and adults. He also donated his time as a youth team coach and in association with his church community. "Carson Bolemon is special," said Southside Christian School head coach Scott Freeman. "Not only is he the most talented player I have coached in 30-plus years, he's also the hardest worker, the best teammate and the most humble player I've been around. He is mature way beyond his years. He's dominant on the mound, but he also looks for ways to make everyone around him better."

Bolemon has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Wake Forest University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in the MLB 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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