

**CORONA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 3, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Seth Hernandez** of **Corona High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year**. Hernandez is the first Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Corona High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Hernandez as California's best high school baseball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Gary Sheffield (1985-86, Hillsborough High School, Fla.), Alex Rodriguez (1992-93, Westminster Christian School, Fla.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Max Clark (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Franklin Community High School, Ind.).

The 6-foot-4, 190-pound junior right-handed pitcher, infielder and outfielder led the Panthers to a 30-3 record and the Division I CIF Southern Section Championship this past season. Hernandez compiled a 9-0 record on the mound with a 0.62 ERA, striking out 73 batters and walking just 15 in 56 innings of work. Ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 2 in the nation in the Class of 2025 by Perfect Game, he also batted .352 with eight home runs and 34 RBI while producing a 1.080 OPS. In addition to earning the series-clinching win at the National High School Invitational, he also picked up the victory in the CIF Southern Section semifinals and hit a decisive two-run homer that proved to be the game-winner.

A talented sculptor and abstract artist, Hernandez has volunteered locally on behalf of the Victory Baptist Church and at a senior living community. "Seth Hernandez is an assassin at baseball," said Brett Kay, head coach at JSerra Catholic High School. "He changes the game in so many shapes and forms and he does it as both a hitter and a pitcher. If he were a senior this year, he would be a Top 10 pick in the MLB draft. He's that good."

Hernandez has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University in the fall of 2025.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state winners in each sport.

Hernandez joins recent Gatorade California Baseball Players of the Year Trent Caraway (2022-23, JSerra Catholic High School), Malcolm Moore (2021-22 & 2020-21, C.K. McClatchy High School) and Tyler Soderstrom (2019-20, Turlock High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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 \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 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 Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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