

**MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 3, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Xavier Neyens** of **Mount Vernon High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year**. Neyens is the first Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Vernon 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 Neyens as Washington’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, 205-pound junior shortstop, outfielder and right-handed pitcher batted .455, scored 34 runs and compiled an OPS of 1.327 this past season, leading the Bulldogs (23-4-1) to a berth in the Class 3A state championship game. Ranked as the nation’s No. 4 prospect in the Class of 2025 by Perfect Game, Neyens also produced a .615 on-base percentage and stole 16 bases. On the mound, he compiled a 5-0 record with a 0.47 ERA and 37 strikeouts against just five walks in 29.1 innings of work, holding opposing hitters to a .163 batting average.

A member of his school’s Link Crew, Neyens has volunteered locally on behalf of the Rotary Club of Skagit and as a youth baseball coach and scorekeeper. “I cannot think of any player I have seen in 27 years of high school baseball more deserving than Xavier Neyens,” said Pat Swapp, head coach at Anacortes High School. “He’s absolutely electric in every facet of the game. He is the most talented kid I’ve seen in high school baseball.”

Neyens has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Oregon State 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.

Neyens joins recent Gatorade Washington Baseball Players of the Year Bjorn Johnson (2022-23, Lincoln High School), J.R. Ritchie (2021-22 & 2020-21, Bainbridge High School) and Malakhi Knight (2019-20, Marysville Getchell 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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