

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

CHICAGO (June 3, 2025) — In its 40<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 2024-25 Gatorade California 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 success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Hernandez as California's best high school baseball player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Gary Sheffield (1985-86, Hillsborough High School, Florida), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Konnor Griffin (2023-24, Jackson Preparatory School, Mississippi).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-4, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher, infielder and outfielder led the Panthers (28-3) to the Division 1 CIF-Southern Section semifinals this past season. The state's returning Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year, Hernandez compiled a 9-1 record on the mound with a 0.39 ERA and 105 strikeouts against just seven walks in 53.1 innings pitched. Ranked as the nation's No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2025 by Perfect Game, Prep Baseball, USA TODAY and Baseball America, he'd also batted .319 with seven home runs, 30 RBI, 24 runs scored and a 1.019 OPS entering the sectional final four.

A devoted parishioner at the Victory Baptist Church where he assists with services and fundraisers, Hernandez has volunteered locally on behalf of a senior living community and enjoys creating abstract art and sculpture. "We faced Corona High School three times this season and Seth Hernandez stood out as the best player on the field," said Justin Solis, head coach at Martin Luther King High School. "He's a humble player who smiles often and clearly enjoys the game, the spotlight and his teammates. Over my 20-plus years of coaching, I've seen many great high school players and he is truly one of the best."

Hernandez has maintained a 3.44 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Vanderbilt University this fall but is projected as a first round selection in July's Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports - 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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).