

## NAZARETH ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Jaden Fauske of Nazareth Academy is the 2024-25 Gatorade Illinois 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 Fauske as Illinois' 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-2, 205-pound senior outfielder and catcher had led the Roadrunners (28-6) to a berth in the Class 4A regional semifinals. Ranked as the nation's No. 13 prospect in the Class of 2025 by Prep Baseball, Fauske batted .461 with six home runs, 36 RBI and 31 runs scored through 34 games. A 2024 Dick's Sporting Goods All-American Classic and Prep Baseball All-American Game invitee, he also stole 29 bases in 30 attempts and compiled a .597 on-base percentage.

An accomplished chess player, Fauske has volunteered locally on behalf of Miracles in Progress, a program supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. "Jaden Fauske is a truly special talent with one of the best offensive skill sets I've ever seen," said Nazareth Academy head coach Lee Milano. "His hitting tools have been ranked among the best in the country by numerous national evaluators. His hitting eye and swing are simply elite."

Fauske has maintained a 4.37 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Louisiana State 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).