

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 3, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Taitn Gray of Dallas Center-Grimes High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Iowa 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 Gray as Iowa'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).

The 6-foot-4, 225-pound senior catcher and outfielder led the Mustangs (35-4) to the Class 4A state tournament last season. Gray batted .538 with 14 home runs, 39 RBI and 37 runs scored, posting a .709 on-base percentage, 1.165 slugging percentage and 1.874 OPS. The 2025 MaxPreps Preseason Iowa Player of the Year, he's ranked as the No. 92 overall prospect in the upcoming MLB Draft by MLB.com and No. 120 by Baseball America. Prep Baseball ranks him as the No. 1 high school prospect in Iowa in his class.

A National Honor Society member, Gray has volunteered locally on behalf of his school's Key Club and is also an avid Crossfit competitor. "He's really impressive," said Ankeny High School head coach Joe Balvanz. "He's a switch-hitter with a tremendous frame. He has some pretty nice tools to work with."

Gray has maintained a 4.13 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play baseball at the University of Oregon beginning this fall.

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 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.