

## NOVI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Uli Fernsler of Novi High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Michigan 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 Fernsler as Michigan'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, 215-pound senior left-handed pitcher had led the Wildcats (23-12) to the Division 1, District 15 postseason tournament this season. Fernsler compiled a 4-1 record on the mound with a 0.328 ERA and 89 strikeouts in 42.2 innings. He walked only five hitters in that span and opposing teams batted just .099 against him. Ranked as the nation's No. 39 prospect in his class by Prep Baseball, he was named the Perfect Game 16U WWBA National Championship's Elite Pitcher last summer.

Fernsler has volunteered locally as a youth baseball camp instructor and on behalf of the Salvation Army. Also a participant in his school's Student-Athlete Leadership, Performance and Impact initiative, he works at the D-Bat Baseball & Softball Academy. "It's not every day you come across a player like Uli Fernsler," said Novi High School head coach Rick Green. "I've had the privilege of coaching him for the past four years, and I can say without hesitation that he is the most impressive student-athlete I've ever had the opportunity to work with in my 29 years of coaching. As our ace and a rare four-year varsity starter, Uli has been a cornerstone of our program, leading with both his talent and his character."

Fernsler has maintained a 4.06 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Texas Christian University this fall, but is projected as an early 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).