

PURVIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Joseph "JoJo" Parker of Purvis High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Mississippi 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 Parker as Mississippi'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-2, 205-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher batted .489 with 13 home runs, 64 runs scored and 35 RBI this past season, stealing 30 bases to lead the Tornadoes (29-8) to the Class 4A state championship game. Ranked as the nation's No. 11 prospect in the Class of 2025 by Prep Baseball, Parker compiled an 8-2 record on the mound with a 2.77 ERA and 89 strikeouts in 55.2 innings pitched. He is a 2025 Perfect Game Preseason First Team All-American and was named Class 4A Co-Mr. Baseball in Mississippi this spring.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, Parker has volunteered locally as a mentor for students with special needs in addition to serving as a youth baseball coach. "JoJo Parker is a born leader on and off the baseball field," said Purvis High School head coach Tony Farlow. "His baseball knowledge and work ethic are exceptional. He has a great attitude and relentless dedication that have made him one of the best high school players in the country."

Parker has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at Mississippi 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 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.