

DAVIE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Coy James of Davie County High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade North Carolina 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 James as North Carolina'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, 190-pound senior shortstop led the War Eagles (14-14) to a berth in the Class 4A state tournament this past season. James batted .605 with nine home runs, 25 RBI and 50 runs scored, posting an OBP of .704 and an OPS of 1.926 to go with a .617 isolated power percentage. He stole 21 bases in 22 attempts. Ranked as the No. 10 prospect in his class by Baseball America, he recently broke the Perfect Game WWBA tournament hits record (22) while representing his club team, Canes National.

A devoted parishioner of Rescue House Church, James has donated his time fundraising for pediatric cancer patients on behalf of Perfect Game. He has also volunteered locally instructing and mentoring youth baseball players. James also works part-time staging homes for a local realtor. "There are some players who just seem to make the game look easy—that's Coy James in the batter's box," said Carlos Collazo, a national writer for Baseball America. "His track record of hitting is as impressive as any player in the 2025 draft class, including an extensive history with Team USA's national programs. He pairs an advanced approach with a knack for barreling balls with great bat speed, allowing him to drive both velocity and quality secondary pitches. James also does a nice job defensively and on the base paths to embody a well-rounded profile."

James has maintained a 4.18 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Mississippi 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 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.