

ARCHBISHOP MOELLER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 Matt Ponatoski of Archbishop Moeller High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Ohio 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 Ponatoski as Ohio'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-2, 200-pound junior shortstop and right-handed pitcher had led the Crusaders (22-3) to the No. 1 seed in Region 3 of the Division I state tournament this season. Ponatoski entered the postseason batting .437 with 29 RBI and 22 runs scored along with two home runs. The reigning Gatorade Ohio Football Player of the Year, he also stole 10 bases and recorded two saves in three innings of relief on the mound.

Ponatoski has volunteered locally with the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields, a local baseball facility just for athletes with special needs. He has also donated his time as a youth football referee and instructor at youth football camps. "There are guys you enjoy watching but you don't want to play against, and that's how I would describe Ponatoski," said Tom Marker, head coach at Olentangy Orange High School. "He just impacts the game in so many ways."

Ponatoski has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.