SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 3, 2025) — In its 40^{th} year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Carson Bolemon of Southside Christian School is the 2024-25 Gatorade South 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 Bolemon as South 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-4, 210-pound junior left-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Sabres (32-2-1) to the Class AAA Upper State championship this past season. Bolemon went 10-0 on the mound with a 0.00 ERA, striking out 101 batters and walking only six in 42.1 innings. He allowed just five base hits to opposing batters all season. Ranked as the nation's No. 6 prospect in the Class of 2026 by Prep Baseball, he also batted .341 with six home runs and a 1.183 OPS.

An ambassador with his school's student government association, Bolemon has volunteered locally as a bible study group leader and on behalf of the Miracle League, providing baseball opportunities for children with special needs. "In my 18 years of coaching high school baseball, Carson Bolemon is one of the most talented players I've ever seen," said Matt Frazier, head coach at Palmetto High School. "He's masterful on the mound and carries himself with maturity and poise. In today's 'look at me' culture, he competes selflessly for his team without any unnecessary attention-seeking behavior."

Bolemon has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play baseball at Wake Forest University beginning in the fall of 2026.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.