

## JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS 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 Kayson Cunningham of Johnson High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Texas 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 Cunningham as Texas' 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 5-foot-10, 180-pound senior shortstop led the Jaguars to a 21-13 record and the second round of the 6A Division I state tournament this past season. Cunningham batted .509 with 23 extra-base hits, 27 RBI and 39 runs scored. The Richard W. "Dick" Case Award recipient recognizing USA Baseball's Player of the Year, he stole 21 bases in 25 attempts and is ranked as the No. 4 high school prospect in the Class of 2025 by Prep Baseball.

Cunningham has volunteered locally at the San Antonio Food Bank and with Catholic Charities of San Antonio, providing meals during the holidays and hanging Christmas decorations for the elderly. He has also donated his time to various youth baseball programs. "The best way to pitch to him is to walk him—if you don't, he is going to find barrel after barrel, and you hope (he hits it) right at someone," said Joey Boyd, Alamo Heights High School head coach. "Then, once he gets on, he's going to steal at will."

Cunningham has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Texas 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](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).