

HURRICANE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Weston Smith of Hurricane High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia 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 Smith as West Virginia'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-4, 200-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Redskins (23-6) to a berth in the Class 4A regional final. Smith compiled a 10-0 record on the mound with a 1.17 ERA and 88 strikeouts in 59.2 innings pitched, holding opposing hitters to a .097 batting average through 29 games. A 2024 First Team All-State selection and the state's No. 2 ranked prospect in the Class of 2025 by Perfect Game, he also batted .371 with three home runs, 35 RBI and a 1.033 OPS at the plate.

A member of the National Honor Society, Smith has volunteered locally on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the Link Crew and as a youth baseball coach. "Weston Smith is a great student-athlete who has flourished not only on the playing field but also in the classroom," said Hurricane High School head coach Brian Sutphin. "He has improved every year he's been in high school and has been a dynamic player all season, completely taking over games both on the mound and at the plate. Simply put, he's been the best player on the field in every game we've played."

Smith has maintained a 4.03 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of West Virginia 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.