KIMBERLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Sawyer Deering of Kimberly High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Wisconsin 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 Deering as Wisconsin'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, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Papermakers (14-6) to the Division 1 postseason tournament, scheduled to begin June 16. Deering compiled a 5-2 record on the mound with a 1.01 ERA and 56 strikeouts in 34.2 innings through 20 games. A 2024 First Team All- State selection, he also batted .435 with four home runs, 23 runs scored, 15 RBI and a 1.396 OPS.

Deering has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth baseball and basketball coach. "Sawyer Deering is the best high school baseball player in Wisconsin this season," said Scott Holler, head coach at Oak Creek High School. "I've seen him play on multiple occasions. He hit two home runs against us that I don't think have landed yet. He gets it done on both sides of the ball, both as a hitter and pitcher. He's conducted himself with class and dignity every time we've played him."

Deering has maintained a 3.86 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Tennessee this fall.

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>.