

## CARY-GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ILLINOIS BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (May 23, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Quinn Priester of Cary-Grove High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year**. Priester is the first Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cary-Grove High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Priester as Illinois' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Priester joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.), Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Wash.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman High School, Tenn.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas), Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-3, 205-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Trojans to a 20-13 record entering the postseason. Priester posted a 6-2 record with a 1.20 ERA through 33 games, along with a .315 batting average and 20 RBI. He had surrendered just 25 hits and 11 walks in 46.2 innings pitched while striking out 73 batters. A Rawlings-Perfect Game First Team All-American, he is ranked as the nation's No. 7 recruit in the Class of 2019 by Perfect Game.

Also a football standout, Priester has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, youth baseball programs and an elementary school reading initiative. "Quinn Priester is the best player I've seen in the Fox Valley over the last 20 years," said Andy Jakubowski, head coach at Huntley High. "The thing that makes him special is not only his velocity, but his command of all his pitches. There are 20-30 scouts out there to see him every fifth day and he blocks them out and performs every time."

Priester has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Texas Christian University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in June's Major League Baseball draft.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Priester joins recent Gatorade Illinois Baseball Players of the Year Matt McCormick (2017-18, St. Laurence High School), Alek Thomas (2016-17, Mount Carmel High School), Tyler Fitzgerald (2015-16, Rochester High School), Charlie Donovan (2014-15, Westmont High School), and Evan Skoug (2013-14, Libertyville High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Priester also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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