

WESTERN DUBUQUE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IOWA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 23, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Calvin Harris of Western Dubuque High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year**. Harris is the first Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Western Dubuque 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 Harris as Iowa's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Harris 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-1, 200-pound junior right-handed catcher, infielder and right-handed pitcher led the Bobcats (34-10) to the Class 4A semifinals this past season, posting an 8-1 record with a 0.53 ERA and 100 strikeouts in 53 innings pitched. A 2018 Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association Super Team All-State selection, Harris also batted .413 with eight home runs, 52 RBI and a 1.308 OPS.

Harris has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home and as a youth football and baseball coach. He has also donated his time as a camp instructor. "Baseball is a game that truly forces nine players to play effectively as one, but Calvin Harris is the exception to this rule," said Brandon Nau, head coach at Bettendorf High SCHOOL. "Coaches have to scheme against him. His arm behind the plate shuts down a running game. His bat forces you to make decisions that you normally wouldn't."

Harris has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Mississippi beginning in the fall of 2020. Iowa – distinct from the other 47 states sanctioning baseball – begins its high school season in conjunction with Memorial Day, which results in the annual Gatorade honor being based upon candidates' previous scholastic season and offseason club/showcase performance, if applicable.

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.

Harris joins recent Gatorade Iowa Baseball Players of the Year Connor Van Scoyoc (2017-18, Jefferson High School), John Swanda (2016-17, Roosevelt High School), Grant Judkins (2015-16, Pella High School), Robert Neustrom (2014-15, North High School) and Keaton McKinney (2013-14, Ankeny High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Harris 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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