

SOUTH PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MAINE 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 **Hunter Owen of South Portland High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year**. Owen is the first Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Portland 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 Owen as Maine'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, Owen 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-5, 225-pound junior left-handed pitcher had led the Red Riots to an 11-0 record at the time of his selection. Owen compiled a 3-0 record with a 0.00 ERA through 11 games, surrendering just nine hits and issuing six walks in 27 innings pitched, while striking out 51 batters. A First Team All-State selection, he was also the Southwestern Maine Activities Association Player of the year.

A devoted member of his church community, Owen has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs. "Hunter Owen is a big, strong, really athletic kid," said Chuck Nadeau, head coach at Gorham High School. "He's figured out the strike zone and he's overpowering at this level. He can also drive the ball at the plate. He's just a good baseball player all-around."

Owen has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

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.

Owen joins recent Gatorade Maine Baseball Players of the Year Brendan Tinsman (2017-18, Cape Elizabeth High School), Cam Guarino (2016-17, Falmouth High School), Trevor DeLaité (2015-16, Bangor High School), Zachary Quintal (2014-15, Marshwood High School) and Ben Greenberg (2013-14, Scarborough High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Owen 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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