

STILLWATER AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Drew Gilbert of Stillwater Area High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year**. Gilbert is the first Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Stillwater Area 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 Gilbert as Minnesota'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, Gilbert 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 5-foot-10, 165-pound senior outfielder and left-handed pitcher had led the Ponies to a 17-2 record at the time of his selection. Gilbert owned a 4-0 record on the mound with a 0.00 ERA through 19 games, along with a .417 batting average and 14 RBI. He had surrendered just nine hits in 28 innings pitched while striking out 55 batters. A First Team All-State honoree, he was also a Rawlings-Perfect Game First Team All-Region selection.

Gilbert has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and youth baseball programs, and has participated in service-mission trips to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. "Drew Gilbert is an outstanding two-way talent," said Kevin McDermott, head coach at Woodbury High. "He's a legit D1 hitter and defender in center field, and he throws in the 90s on the mound. What makes him great goes beyond his talent though. It's his gritty, tough competitiveness."

Gilbert has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Oregon State University 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.

Gilbert joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Seth Halvorsen (2017-18, Heritage Christian Academy), Sam Carlson (2016-17, Burnsville High School), Nick Hanson (2015-16, Prior Lake High School), Eduardo Estrada (2014-15, Litchfield High School), and Sam Hentges (2013-14, Mounds View High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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