

DELBARTON SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Jack Leiter of Delbarton School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year**. Leiter is the first Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Delbarton 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 Leiter as New Jersey'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, Leiter 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, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher had led the Green Wave to a 19-3 record at the time of his selection. Leiter owned a 6-0 record on the mound, also recording a save while posting a 0.54 earned run average through 22 games. He had fanned 69 batters and allowed just 17 hits in 38.2 innings pitched. At the plate, Leiter owned a .364 batting average with four doubles, 13 RBI and a .523 slugging percentage. Ranked as the nation's No. 18 prospect in the Class of 2019 by Baseball America, and he was the winning pitcher as the USA Baseball Under-18 National Team won the gold medal at the Pan-American Championships in Panama in May.

The son of former Major League pitcher Al Leiter, Jack Leiter has volunteered locally with Meals on Wheels and with a Christmas season toy drive. "Jack has demonstrated that the bigger the stage, the bigger the performance," said Bruce Shatel, head coach of Delbarton School. "He is composed and does all the little things extremely well. He has four pitches that are all plus-plus. He has an extra gear that makes him really tough to hit."

Leiter has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt 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.

Leiter joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Players of the Year Nick Decker (2017-18, Seneca High School), Brad Dobzanski (2016-17, Delsea Regional High School), Luca Dalatri (2015-16 & 2014-15, Christian Brothers Academy), and Zach Attianese (2013-14, Old Bridge High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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