

LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Joe Vetrano of Lakeland High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year**. Vetrano is the second Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeland 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 Vetrano as New York'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, Vetrano 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, 210-pound junior left-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Hornets to a 19-1 record at the time of his selection. Vetrano compiled a 7-0 record with a 0.55 ERA through 20 games, along with a .436 batting average, 10 home runs and 27 RBI. He had surrendered just 18 hits and nine walks in 37.2 innings pitched while striking out 54 batters. A Second Team All-State selection as a sophomore, he was also the Section 1 Player of the year.

Vetrano has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs. "Vetrano is head and shoulders above the competition, just a man among boys," said Joe Wootten, head coach at Somers High. "He's an elite player with elite talent who works hard to be the best he can be. If there's another player of his caliber somewhere in New York, I'd sure like to watch him play."

Vetrano has maintained an A-minus average 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.

Vetrano joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Charlie Mack (2017-18, Williamsville East High School), Quentin Holmes (2016-17, Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School), Daniel Bakst (2015-16, Poly Prep Country Day School), Garrett Whitley (2014-15, Niskayuna High School), and Scott Blewett (2013-14, C.W. Baker High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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