

HEDGESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Chase DeLauter of Hedgesville High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year**. DeLauter is the first Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hedgesville 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 DeLauter as West Virginia'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, DeLauter 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, 220-pound senior, left-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Eagles to a 23-8 record and the regional finals at the time of his selection. DeLauter compiled an 8-1 record with a 0.79 ERA through 31 games, along with a .615 batting average, six home runs and 47 RBI. He had surrendered just 31 hits and 16 walks through 53.1 innings pitched while striking out 91 batters. Captain of the Class AAA All-State team, DeLauter earned the John Lowery Award as the state's player of the year in 2018.

DeLauter has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs. "Chase DeLauter is the kid you absolutely don't want to face if you're a pitcher," said Aaron Beiler, Martinsburg High head coach. "He's a really tough out, and he's got phenomenal stuff on the mound as well."

DeLauter has maintained a weighted 4.24 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at James Madison 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.

DeLauter joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Players of the Year Ross Mulhall (2017-18, University High School), Drew Hefner (2016-17, Bridgeport High School), Paul Witt (2015-16, Jefferson High School), Zach Minnick (2014-15, Logan High School), and Seth Kinker (2013-14, Cabell Midland High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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