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TURLOCK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 21, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Tyler Soderstrom of Turlock High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year**. Soderstrom is the first Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Turlock 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 Soderstrom as California'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, Soderstrom 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-2, 205-pound senior catcher is the nation's No. 7 high school prospect as ranked by Baseball America and was a member of the 2019 USA Baseball 18U National Team. Also a 2019 First Team All-State selection, Soderstrom batted .428 with a 1.285 OPS for the Bulldogs in 2020 before the season was cancelled.

Soderstrom has donated his time as a peer tutor and has volunteered on behalf of his school's Link Crew and the American Cancer Society. "Tyler Soderstrom has a very unique combination of speed and power," said Turlock head coach Sean Gilbert. "Defensively, he plays a premier position and has proven his ability of being an excellent receiver and outstanding blocker who possesses an exceptional throwing arm."

Soderstrom has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at UCLA, 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 and 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.

Soderstrom joins recent Gatorade California Baseball Players of the Year Cole Winn (2017-18, Orange Lutheran High School), Royce Lewis (2016-17, JSerra Catholic High School), Mickey Moniak (2015-16, La Costa Canyon High School), and Joe DeMers (2014-15, College Park High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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