

SPRUCE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Zac Veen of Spruce Creek High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year**. Veen is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spruce Creek 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 Veen as Florida'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, Veen 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-5, 205-pound senior outfielder posted a .500 batting average with 15 runs scored and 10 RBI this past season, leading the Hawks to a 10-1 record before the season was cancelled. Veen recorded four doubles, three home runs and 17 stolen bases while posting a .627 on-base percentage and a .969 slugging percentage through 11 games. A 2019 Perfect Game All-American honoree, he was selected to play in the 2020 Under Armour All-American Game and the Perfect Game All-American Classic. He is ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Prep Baseball Report.

Veen has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach, and he has donated his time to a fundraising campaign to benefit Rady's Children's Hospital-San Diego. "Zac is hands down the most driven student-athlete I have ever coached," said Johnny Goodrich, head coach of Spruce Creek High. "There is a lot of pressure Zac is under, but somehow he can cast it aside and he just plays."

Veen has maintained a weighted 3.86 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Florida, 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.

Veen joins recent Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Carter Stewart (2017-18, Eau Gallie High School), Logan Allen (2016-17, University High School), Bo Bichette (2015-16, Lakewood High School), and Kyle Tucker (2014-15, Plant 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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