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**MOUNT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Ed Howard of Mount Carmel High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year**. Howard is the second Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Carmel 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 Howard as Illinois'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, Howard 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, 195-pound senior shortstop was a member of the USA Baseball U18 National Team last summer and was a Rawlings-Perfect Game 2020 Preseason First Team All-American. He led the Caravan (19-16) to the sectional semifinals in 2019, batting .421 with three home runs, 33 RBI, 42 runs scored and 16 stolen bases. He is ranked as the nation's No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2020 by Prep Baseball Report.

Howard has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed Our Starving Children, a homeless shelter and area nursing homes. "In my 21 years as a head coach in Illinois, Ed Howard is the finest shortstop I have seen in this state," said Mount Carmel coach Brian Hurry. "He's a humble, hardworking young man who just keeps getting better. His skill set is extremely advanced for our level and he has a realistic chance at a long career in professional baseball."

Howard has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma, 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.

Howard joins recent Gatorade Illinois Baseball Players of the Year Matt McCormick (2017-18, St. Laurence High School), Alek Thomas (2016-17, Mount Carmel High School), Tyler Fitzgerald (2015-16, Rochester High School) and Charlie Donovan (2014-15, Westmont 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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