

**CANEY VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Jace Kaminska of Caney Valley High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Kansas Baseball Player of the Year**. Kaminska is the first Gatorade Kansas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Caney Valley 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 Kaminska as Kansas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Kaminska 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2, 200-pound senior is the highest-rated right-handed pitching prospect in Kansas by both Perfect Game and the Prep Baseball Report. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Kaminska did not surrender an earned run in his final high school season of 2019, setting a state-record for consecutive strikeouts (29 over three games), which ranks as the second-longest streak in national prep history. His 0.00 ERA also set a state record.

A devoted parishioner of the Tyro Christian Church and a member of the National Honor Society, Kaminska has donated his time as a recreation league umpire and has volunteered locally making care packages for active-duty military in addition to helping to build wooden structures for the school district, including a bus barn and the superintendent's office. He has also served on behalf of the Caney Recreation Commission, laying sod and planting rye on the city baseball field as well as disassembling old fencing. Kaminska helps out on his family's fifth-generation farm on a daily basis and enjoys working with cattle, fishing and tinkering with cars and trucks. "The game comes so naturally to him.," said Dan Wilson, head coach at Erie High. "I don't know if I've ever seen a kid elevate the level of his game play continuously every single season. He simply keeps getting better and better. I honestly can't think of any player more worthy of this award than Jace."

Kaminska has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom, ranks No. 1 in his class and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Wichita State University.

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.

Kaminska joins recent Gatorade Kansas Baseball Players of the Year Peyton Carson (2017-18, Shawnee Heights High School), Conner VanCleave (2016-17, Holcomb High School) and Riley Pint (2015-16, & 2014-15 Saint Thomas Aquinas 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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