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**BURNSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (May 21, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Max Carlson of Burnsville High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year**. Carlson is the second Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Burnsville 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 Carlson as Minnesota'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, Carlson 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, 185-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder was named the Perfect Game 17U Pitcher of the Year for his play last summer. In the quarterfinals of the 2019 WWBA 17U Elite Championship last July, Carlson spun five shutout innings, scattering two hits and two walks with 10 strikeouts to send his Canes National into the semis. He also played in the USA Baseball 17U National Team Development Program this past offseason. A Rawlings-Perfect Game 2020 Preseason First Team All-American, Carlson led the Blaze (13-10) to the sectional playoffs in 2019, posting a 3-2 record with a 0.97 ERA and 64 strikeouts while surrendering just 19 hits and 13 walks in 36 innings pitched. He also batted .452 with 15 RBI in his final high school season.

Carlson has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children, the Miracle League, Ronald McDonald House Charities and youth baseball programs. "Max is confident in his abilities and an extremely hard worker who is meticulous about perfecting even the smallest detail," said Burnsville coach Mick Scholl. "He worked diligently and improved his fastball from 86 MPH to 97-plus. He could have displayed anger or frustration about losing his senior year of baseball, but instead, he's continued doing what he can to work hard to improve his skills."

Carlson has maintained a 3.14 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina.

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.

Carlson joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Seth Halvorsen (2017-18, Heritage Christian Academy), Sam Carlson (2016-17, Burnsville High School), Nick Hanson (2015-16, Prior Lake High School), and Eduardo Estrada (2014-15, Litchfield 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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