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**NORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Cade Horton of Norman High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Oklahoma Baseball Player of the Year**. Horton is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Norman 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 Horton as Oklahoma'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, Horton 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, 195-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher participated in the Perfect Game All-American game in August. A Perfect Game 2020 Preseason All-American selection, Horton was 1-0 on the mound with a 0.00 earned run average and five strikeouts in four innings pitched this spring for the Tigers (3-1-1) before the season was cancelled. He compiled a .375 batting average with six runs scored and six RBI. Horton concluded his prep baseball career with a .420 batting average, 140 hits, 128 runs scored, 87 RBI and 34 doubles.

Horton has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and at youth baseball and softball tournaments. "Cade Horton is a ballplayer," said Cody Merrell, head coach of Norman High. "He is obviously gifted and able to do things other high school players cannot. As a pitcher, he can throw in by any batter. Defensively, he has unbelievable range and the ability to make plays that will make you shake your head in amazement."

Horton has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Oklahoma, where he will also walk-on to the football team as a quarterback.

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.

Horton joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Baseball Players of the Year Tyler Polk (2017-18, Duncan High School), Ryan Vilade (2016-17, Stillwater High School), Cacy Harper (2015-16, Berryhill High School), and Kyle Tyler (2014-15, Westmoore 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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