

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**GatoradePOYQuestions@Fleishman.com**

**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Mick Abel of Jesuit High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year**. Abel is the first Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Abel as Oregon'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, Abel 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-5, 180-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman was a member of the USA Baseball 18U National Team that won a silver medal at the Baseball World Cup in September. One of two unanimous selections for the Baseball America High School Preseason All-American Team this spring, Abel is ranked as the nation's No. 3 prospect in the Class of 2020 by Baseball America and Prep Baseball Report. He concluded his prep baseball career with an 18-3 record, a 1.98 earned run average and 213 strikeouts in 150.2 innings pitched.

Abel has volunteered locally by packing donated clothes for children in foster care on behalf of Northwest Children's Outreach and has also helped out at a camp for adults with disabilities and at a nursing home. "Mick is a once-in-a-generation talent," said Kevin Gunderson, Abel's summer coach with Gunderson Baseball. "He is calm on the mound, but is a fierce competitor on the inside. Mick never lets the other team get comfortable. He attacks you from pitch one until the very last pitch."

Abel has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at Oregon State University, 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.

Two-time winner Abel joins recent Gatorade Oregon Baseball Players of the Year Willie Weiss (2017-18, Westview High School), Tim Tawa (2016-17, West Linn High School), Adley Rutschman (2015-16, Sherwood High School), and Jacob Bennett (2014-15, Tualatin 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).

###