

**RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Caden Grice of Riverside High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Player of the Year. Grice is the first Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverside 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 Grice as South Carolina'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, Grice 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-6, 235-pound senior first baseman and left-handed pitcher batted .353 for the Warriors (3-4) this spring, cranking three home runs and plating four RBI before the season was cancelled. A Rawlings-Perfect Game 2020 Preseason First Team All-Atlantic Region selection, he led his Canes National 17U team to the World Wood Bat Association national championship this past fall. Grice also helped Riverside to a 20-9 record and the district finals in 2019, hitting .397 with two home runs and 20 RBI, while posting a 2-0 record and a 0.96 ERA on the mound to earn All-State honors.

A devoted member of his church community, Grice has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, a soup kitchen and youth baseball programs. "Caden Grice is the most talented baseball player that I've ever coached, and his accomplishments back that up," said Riverside High School coach Michael Pettit. "He's a coach's dream; his work ethic is unparalleled and he's also a tremendous teammate. He's a remarkable baseball player and a remarkable young man."

Grice has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Clemson University this fall.

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.

Grice joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Players of the Year Geoffrey Gilbert (2017-18, Bishop England High School), Logan Chapman (2016-17, Easley High School), Thomas Jones (2015-16, Laurens District High School), and Jake Crawford (2014-15, Belton-Honea Path 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.

