

**MARYSVILLE GETCHELL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Malakhi Knight of Marysville Getchell High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year. Knight is the first Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Marysville Getchell 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 Knight as Washington'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, Knight 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, 190-pound junior outfielder was named the Most Outstanding Player at the 2019 Underclass Area Code Games in August. Knight reached base in all nine plate appearances at the Games with three hits, including a home run, and six walks. A Second Team All-WESCO North Division selection as a freshman, Knight missed all but four games his sophomore year with an injury. He is ranked as the nation's No. 20 prospect in the Class of 2021 by Baseball America.

Knight has volunteered locally as a youth baseball and basketball coach. "I've been fortunate enough to play with a lot of great players and see a lot of great players in my time in baseball," said Gabriel Rochon, head coach of Marysville Getchell High. "Malakhi is easily one of the best I've been around. Anything he wants to do on the diamond is achievable."

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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.

Knight joins recent Gatorade Washington Baseball Players of the Year Carter Young (2017-18, Selah High School), Jesse Franklin (2016-17, Seattle Prep), Christian Jones (2015-16, Federal Way High School), and Cody Hawken (2014-15, Union 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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