

PHILLIPS ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 3, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Thomas White of Phillips Academy is the 2021-22 Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year. White is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Phillips Academy.

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 White as Massachusetts' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, White 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 (2006-07, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-5, 209-pound junior left-handed pitcher led the Big Blues to an 18-3 record and the Central New England Prep School Baseball League Tournament championship this past season. White compiled a 6-1 record on the mound with a 0.21 earned run average, striking out 70 batters while allowing just 10 hits in 33 innings pitched. He allowed more than two hits just once in seven starts. Ranked as the nation's No. 1 prospect in the Class of 2023 by PrepBaseballReport.com, he was a 2021 First Team All-New England selection by the New England Baseball Journal.

White has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. He has also donated his time as a youth baseball coach in addition to visiting patients at a children's hospital as a Perfect Game Ambassador. "Thomas has a calm, mature presence about him on the mound and is able to locate well with his fastball on both sides of the plate," said Tim Mitropolous, head coach of Phillips Exeter Academy. "I think his best quality is when we did get a runner or two on base, Thomas turned up his game to another level. He increased his velocity and was able to just shut down that momentum."

White has maintained a cumulative academic standing at the high end of 'superior' on Phillips' six-point grading scale. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University beginning in the fall of 2023.

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 & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

White joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Players of the Year Joshua Baez (2020-21 & 2019-20, Dexter Southfield School), Sebastian Keane (2018-19, North Andover High School), and Steve Hajjar (2017-18, Central Catholic High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, White has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. White is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.