

SUNSET HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 3, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Kruz Schoolcraft of Sunset High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year. Schoolcraft is the first Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sunset High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Schoolcraft as Oregon's best high school baseball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Gary Sheffield (1985-86, Hillsborough High School, Fla.), Alex Rodriguez (1992-93, Westminster Christian School, Fla.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Max Clark (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Franklin Community High School, Ind.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-8, 210-pound junior left-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Lancers (28-4) to the Class 6A tournament title game this season. Schoolcraft owned a 28-3 record on the mound along with a 0.39 ERA and 146 strikeouts in 71.2 innings through 32 games. He fired four shutouts, including a no-hitter, and opposing batters hit only a .102 against him as he compiled a 0.586 WHIP. At the plate, he hit .506 entering the state championship game to go with 14 doubles, seven home runs, 30 RBI and 29 runs scored. He posted a .609 OBP and an OPS of 1.517. Ranked as the nation's No. 33 overall prospect in the 2025 Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft, he is a two-time Perfect Game Preseason Underclass All-American.

Schoolcraft has volunteered locally on behalf of HOPE (Honoring Our Precious Elderly) in addition to donating his time to Sunset High Youth Baseball Camps as well as to community service projects undertaken by the team. "Kruz was the most dominant player we faced all year," said Kyle Chamberlain, head coach at Southridge High School. "He not only commands his pitches really well, he's also extremely composed on the mound. He understands the game of baseball at a high level and shows it both at the plate and on the hill."

Schoolcraft has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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 & 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.

Schoolcraft joins recent Gatorade Oregon Baseball Players of the Year Noble Meyer (2022-23, Jesuit High School), Paul Wilson (2021-22, Lakeridge High School), Mason Guerra (2020-21, Westview High School) and Mick Abel (2019-20, Jesuit High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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