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## **EAU GALLIE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 29, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Carter Stewart of Eau Gallie High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year. Stewart is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eau Gallie 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 Stewart as Florida's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Stewart joins an elite alumni association of past 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, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher compiled a 6-2 record on the mound with a 0.91 ERA this past season, leading the Commodores (14-11) to the Class 6A, District 13 tournament semifinals. Stewart struck out 128 batters, while allowing just 26 hits and 18 walks in 61.2 innings pitched. At the plate, he produced a .313 batting average with seven home runs, 21 RBI and a .734 slugging percentage. He is ranked as the No. 17 recruit in the Class of 2018 by Perfect Game.

A two-time state tournament qualifier with the Eau Gallie golf team, Stewart has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and as a youth baseball and golf coach.

"Carter was super-human against us," said Jason Arnold, head coach of Satellite High School. "He pitched at 93-98 [mph] with a plus-plus breaking ball. He was almost their entire team, and he was formidable as a hitter as well."

Stewart has maintained a 3.18 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at Mississippi State University this fall, 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 & 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Stewart joins recent Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Logan Allen (2016-17, University High School), Bo Bichette (2015-16, Lakewood High School), Kyle Tucker (2014-15, Plant High School), Nicholas Gordon (2013-14 & 2012-13, Olympia High School), Lance McCullers, Jr. (2011-12, Jesuit High School), Jose Fernandez (2010-11, Alonso High School), Nick Castellanos (2009-10, Archbishop McCarthy High School), Bobby Borchering (2008-09, Bishop Verot Catholic), Eric Hosmer (2007-08, American Heritage School), and Michael Main (2006-07, DeLand High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Carter will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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