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**BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 29, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Grant Lavigne of Bedford High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year. Lavigne is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bedford 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 Lavigne as New Hampshire's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Lavigne 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-4, 230-pound senior outfielder and first baseman had led the Bulldogs to a 17-0 record at the time of his selection. The state's Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year as a sophomore, Lavigne owned a .588 average with six home runs, 17 stolen bases and 25 RBI through 17 games. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Second Team All-American, he is also a three-time First Team All-State selection and was named to USA TODAY's American Family Insurance ALL-USA New Hampshire First Team.

Lavigne has volunteered locally on behalf of the Bedford Little League Challenger Division and his church's religious education program.

"Grant Lavigne is the best high school hitter I've had the opportunity to watch play for at least 20 years," said John Carver, head coach at Dover High. "He's polished at the plate and disciplined in his approach, and he carries himself with humility."

Lavigne has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Wake Forest 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 & 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.

Two-time winner Lavigne joins Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Players of the Year Brennen Oxford (2016-17, Oyster River High School), Casey Aubin (2014-15, Oyster River High School), Rob Del Signore (2013-14, Londonderry High School), Tyler Barss (2012-13, Goffstown High School), Jordan Bean (2011-12, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Jordan Cote (2010-11, Winnisquam Regional High School), Mike Montville (2009-10 & 2008-09, Portsmouth High School), Brad Zapenas (2007-08, Nashua High School North), and Brian White (2006-07, Salem High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Grant 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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