

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

**WILLIAMSVILLE EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Charlie Mack of Williamsville East High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year. Mack is the first Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Williamsville East 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 Mack as New York's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Mack 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, 200-pound senior shortstop had led the Flames to a 17-1 record and the sectional playoffs at the time of his selection. Mack produced a .551 average with four home runs, 20 RBI and a .685 on-base percentage through 18 games. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Third Team All-American, he is a two-time All-Western New York selection.

Mack has volunteered locally on behalf of physically challenged children in his community.

"All I can say about Charlie Mack is 'wow,'" said Derek Hill, head coach at Hamburg High. "He's a man amongst boys. He can really swing the bat and I was most impressed by his defense at shortstop. He showcased every talent imaginable."

Mack has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Clemson 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.

Mack joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Quentin Holmes (2016-17, Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School), Daniel Bakst (2015-16, Poly Prep Country Day School), Garrett Whitley (2014-15, Niskayuna High School), Scott Blewett (2013-14, C.W. Baker High School), Mark Armstrong (2012-13, Clarence High School), Alex Robinson (2011-12, Holy Trinity High School), Jonathan de Marte (2010-11 & 2009-10, Lakeland High School), Marcus Stroman (2008-09, Patchogue-Medford High School), Philip Pohl (2007-08, Cooperstown High School), and Brian Dupra (2006-07, Greece Athena High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Charlie 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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