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WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 Willie Weiss of Westview High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year. Weiss is the fifth Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Westview 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 Weiss as Oregon's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Weiss 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-3, 205-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Wildcats to a 24-3 record and a berth in second round of the Class 6A state tournament at the time of his selection. Weiss owned an 8-0 record with a 0.38 earned run average and 116 strikeouts in 55.1 innings pitched, allowing 17 hits through 27 games. At the plate, Weiss had posted a .451 batting average with six doubles, 28 runs scored and a .538 slugging percentage. He was the 2017 Metro League Player of the Year and a First-Team All-State selection as an infielder.

Weiss has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and as a youth baseball coach. He has also donated his time as part of multiple community service initiatives through Young Life church group.

"Willie Weiss is an outstanding baseball player," said Tige McSwain, head coach of Aloha High. "He makes the tough plays look routine. He is very smooth and has a cannon from the shortstop position."

Weiss has maintained a weighted 3.42 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Michigan 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.

Weiss joins recent Gatorade Oregon Baseball Players of the Year Tim Tawa (2016-17, West Linn High School), Adley Rutschman (2015-16, Sherwood High School), Jacob Bennett (2014-15, Tualatin High School), Elliott Cary (2013-14, Clackamas High School), Austin Kelly (2012-13, Clackamas High School), Carson Kelly (2011-12 & 2010-11, Westview High School), Ben Wetzler (2009-10, Clackamas), Matt Maurer (2008-09, North Medford), Ryan Gorton (2007-08, Tigard), and Joey Mahalic (2006-07, Wilson) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Willie 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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