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WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Michael Siani of William Penn Charter School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year. Siani is the second Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from William Penn Charter 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 Siani as Pennsylvania's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Siani 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, 195-pound senior centerfielder had led the Quakers (11-10) to the first round of the Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association tournament at the time of his selection. Siani had batted .345 (19-for-55) with two home runs, 10 RBI, 20 runs and 13 walks, giving him an on-base percentage of .493 and a slugging percentage of .509 through 21 games. He also stole 19 bases on 21 attempts entering the postseason. Siani went 2-0 on the mound with a 3.94 ERA, fanning nine batters and walking four in 5.1 innings. A Perfect Game First-Team All-American and gold medal winner with Team USA at the 2017 18U World Cup, Siani is the No. 1 recruit in Pennsylvania for the Class of 2018 as rated by Perfect Game and is No. 28 on Baseball America's Top High School Prospects list.

Siani has volunteered locally mentoring younger players in the baseball training program Whiz Kids in addition to donating his time serving food to the needy.

"Mike is a dynamic player who affects and impacts the game in every way," said Matt Blood, USA 18U National Team Director. "As a leader, in the box, on the bases, in the outfield, he's a true five-tool guy. And the sixth tool is his leadership and makeup. He's been best when he plays on the biggest stage."

Siani has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at University of Virginia 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.

Siani joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Players of the Year Zach Kokoska (2016-17, Greater Latrobe Senior High School), Alex Kirilloff (2015-16, Plum Senior High School), Mike Nikorak (2014-15, Stroudsburg High School), Brendan McKay (2013-14 & 2012-13, Blackhawk High School), Kenny Koplove (2011-12, William Penn Charter School), Derek Fisher (2010-11, Cedar Crest High School), Sean Coyle (2009-10, Germantown Academy), Mike Lubanski (2008-09, Malvern Preparatory School), Zak Sinclair (2007-08, West Allegheny), and Devin Mesoraco (2006-07, Punxsutawney) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Michael 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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