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LAKE TRAVIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TEXAS 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 Brett Baty of Lake Travis High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year. Baty is the first Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Travis 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 Baty as Texas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Baty 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, 210-pound junior third baseman and right-handed pitcher led the Cavaliers (31-7) to the Class 6A regional quarterfinals this past season. Baty hit .435 (37-for-85) with 12 home runs, 27 RBI and 43 runs scored en route to a .953 slugging percentage. He walked 38 times and compiled an on-base percentage of .622. Baty also went 4-0 on the mound with a save and a 1.35 ERA, striking out 38 batters while yielding just 13 walks and 16 hits over 33.1 innings pitched. A two-time District 25-6A Most Valuable Player, he is ranked as the nation's No. 64 in the Class of 2019 by Prep Baseball Report.

A Young Life member, Baty has volunteered locally with the Lake Travis Youth Association's Little Buddies program in addition to donating his time to helping elderly families move seasonal items several times a year.

"Brett Baty is up there with the best high school players I've seen," said Allen McGee, head coach at Vandergrift High. "He's the real deal. He's good, and he's doing it against really good competition, too. He changes your whole game plan when he is at the plate, and he pitches, too. It's too bad we have to deal with him for another year."

Baty has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Texas beginning in the fall of 2019.

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.

Baty joins recent Gatorade Texas Baseball Players of the Year Alex Scherff (2016-17, Colleyville Heritage High School), Kyle Muller (2015-16, Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas), Luken Baker (2014-15, Oak Ridge High School), Tyler Kolek (2013-14, Shepherd High School), Kohl Stewart (2012-13, St. Pius X High School), Courtney Hawkins (2011-12, Carroll High School), Josh Bell (2010-11, Jesuit College Preparatory School), Jameson Taillon (2009-10, The Woodlands), Shelby Miller (2008-09, Brownwood), Taylor Jungmann (2007-08, Georgetown), and Blake Beavan (2006-07, Irving) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brett 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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