

## SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (May 23, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Jacob Woodall of South Anchorage High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year**. Woodall is the second Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Woodall as Alaska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Woodall joins an elite alumni association of 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-5, 230-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Wolverines to a 12-3 record at the time of his selection with the Class 4A state tournament scheduled to begin May 30. A 2018 First Team All-State selection, Woodall posted a 2-0 record on the mound with a 0.00 ERA and 25 strikeouts in 12 innings through 15 games. He also batted .410 with 12 RBI, 16 runs and a .538 on-base percentage.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, Woodall has volunteered locally on behalf of the Food Bank of Alaska and as a youth camp counselor and baseball instructor. "Jacob Woodall is one of the reasons that we have as many wins as we do," said South Anchorage High head coach Taylor Nerland. "On the mound, he has been dialed in each outing. When he is at the plate, we are always confident in his abilities to execute."

Woodall has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at St. Martin's University in Washington State beginning 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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Woodall joins recent Gatorade Alaska Baseball Players of the Year Michael Cesar (2017-18, Juneau-Douglas High School), Jonny Homza (2016-17 & 2015-16, South Anchorage High School), Nathan Bonck (2014-15, Ketchikan High School), and Scooter Bynum (2013-14, Monroe Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Woodall also has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [www.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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