

HAR-BER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 23, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Blake Adams of Har-Ber High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Player of the Year**. Adams is the first Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Har-Ber 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 Adams as Arkansas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Adams 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-3, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Wildcats to a 25-7 record and a berth in the Class 6A state championship game at the time of his selection. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Adams posted a 7-0 record on the mound with a 1.88 ERA and 90 strikeouts in 59.2 innings while holding opposing hitters to a .167 average through 32 games. The state's No. 1 prep prospect as rated by Perfect Game, he also batted .333 with six home runs and 21 RBI with a 1.163 OPS.

A member of the National Honor Society, Adams has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and as a mentor and tutor for elementary school students. "Blake Adams is one of the most complete players that has come through our area in the last four years," said Scott Gallagher, head coach at Fayetteville High. "He is five-tool player that you don't see at the high school level that often."

Adams has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Adams joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Players of the Year Jaden Hill (2017-18, Ashdown High School), Casey Martin (2016-17, Lonoke High School), Evan Lee (2015-16, Bryant High School), Andy Pagnozzi (2014-15, Fayetteville High School), and Trevor Ezell (2013-14, Bryant High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Adams 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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