

STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 **Chad Knight of Staples High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year**. Knight is the second Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Staples 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 Knight as Connecticut'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, Knight 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, 210-pound senior catcher and right-handed pitcher led the Wreckers to an 18-3 record at the time of his selection. Knight batted .554 with 10 home runs, 23 RBI and a slugging percentage of 1.179 through 21 games. A First Team All-State selection, he was also named the Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference Player of the year.

A talented pianist, Knight has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and youth baseball programs. "On the mound, he's a shutdown guy, and at the plate Knight is a beast," said Rit Lacomis, head coach at Stamford High. "The ball jumps off his bat, and it just sounds different than when anyone else hits it."

Knight has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Duke University 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.

Knight joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Players of the Year Patrick Winkel (2017-18, Amity Regional High School), Ben Casparius (2016-17, Staples High School), Jimmy Titus (2015-16 & 2014-15, East Catholic High School), and Ronnie Rossomando (2013-14, Bunnell High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Knight 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.

###