

DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Jack Bulger of DeMatha Catholic High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year**. Bulger is the first Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from DeMatha Catholic 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 Bulger as Maryland'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, Bulger 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, 200-pound junior catcher, left fielder, third baseman and right-handed pitcher led the Stags to 18-13 record and the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship series this past season. Bulger batted .545 with six doubles, three triples and five home runs in 77 at-bats. He drove in 32 runs, walked 18 times and amassed an eye-popping 1.556 OPS. Bulger also stole 25 bases in 25 attempts. Little used on the mound, he recorded a save in his only appearance, pitching a perfect inning to clinch a WCAC finals berth. The nation's No. 40 prospect in the Class of 2020 as rated by Perfect Game, Bulger was a 2019 Mid-Season All-USA Baseball Player of the Year candidate, a 2019 WCAC First Team selection and was invited to participate in the USA National Team Development Program/Prospect Development Pipeline, featuring the top 80 players in the country. At the Perfect Game Junior Nationals, he recorded the No. 1 pop time among catchers (1.80 seconds) and the top exit velocity of batted balls (103 mph).

A mentor and coach for Athletic Performance Inc. youth baseball camps, Bulger volunteers on behalf of the Light House Homelessness Prevention Support Center, making bag lunches for the needy. He has also donated his time to feeding the homeless in inner-city Baltimore and has served as volunteer coach for USA Baseball NTIS, in addition to being a member of the DeMatha Baseball Leadership Council. "The first time I met Jack Bulger, I knew right away he was a next-level talent," said Bryan Towers, head coach of St. Mary's Ryken High School. "But aside from his skill-set, what is even more impressive is his humble attitude. He plays the game the right way. I've dubbed him Teddy Roosevelt because he 'speaks softly and carries a big stick.'"

Bulger has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University beginning in the fall of 2020.

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.

Bulger joins recent Gatorade Maryland Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Archibald (2017-18, John Carroll School), Harold Cortijo (2016-17, Riverdale Baptist School), Tyler Blohm (2015-16, Archbishop Spalding High School), Ljay Newsome (2014-15, Chopticon High School) and Cody Morris (2013-14, Reservoir High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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