

NORTH ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Sebastian Keane of North Andover High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year**. Keane is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Andover 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 Keane as Massachusetts' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Keane 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, 165-pound senior right-handed pitcher and second baseman had led the Scarlet Knights to an 11-2 record at the time of his selection. Keane owned a 6-0 record on the mound with a 0.88 earned run average, striking out 62 and issuing just seven walks in 32 innings pitched through 13 games. A member of the Swedish National Team, Keane owned a batting average of .300 with five doubles and 11 runs scored. The 2018 Merrimack Valley Conference MVP, he is ranked as the nation's No. 174 prospect in the Class of 2019 by Perfect Game.

Keane has volunteered locally with a baseball team made up of special-needs students, and he has donated his time to an elementary school literacy-outreach program as well as with the Special Olympics. "Sebastian can dominate a game with his 92-mile-per-hour velocity, but he also has a strong secondary pitch if needed," said Bill Blackwell, head coach of Methuen High. "The ball jumps out of his hand."

Keane has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at Northeastern 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.

Keane joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Players of the Year Steve Hajjar (2017-18, Central Catholic High School), Matt Tabor (2016-17, Milton Academy), Anthony Videtto (2015-16, Silver Lake Regional High School), Joe Walsh (2014-15, Plymouth North High School), and Joe Freiday (2013-14, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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