

BILOXI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Colten Keith of Biloxi High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year**. Keith is the second Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Biloxi 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 Keith as Mississippi'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, Keith 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, 195-pound junior infielder and right-handed pitcher led the Indians (29-5) to the Class 6A semifinals this past season, batting .527 average with eight home runs, 49 RBI, 46 runs scored and an on-base percentage of .659. A 2019 Perfect Game Preseason Underclassmen First Team All-American and the state's No. 2-ranked player by Perfect Game, Keith also posted a 6-0 record on the mound with five saves, a 1.47 ERA and 74 strikeouts in 38 innings pitched.

Keith has volunteered locally on behalf of Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry and as a youth baseball instructor. "Colten Keith has the tools to play this game for many years after high school," said Biloxi High head coach Eddie Lofton. "I truly believe I will be going to Major League parks and watching him play. He hits for power and average along with his great speed and a plus arm. He has all the tools that they look for in a draft pick."

Keith has maintained an 88.6 average in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Arizona State 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.

Keith joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Players of the Year J.T. Ginn (2017-18, Brandon High School), Trey Shaffer (2016-17, Biloxi High School), Jason Barber (2015-16 & 2014-15, Oxford High School), and Austin Riley (2013-14, DeSoto Central High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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