

JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 **Mick Abel of Jesuit High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year**. Abel is the first Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Abel as Oregon'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, Abel 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-5, 180-pound junior right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Crusaders to a 22-5-1 record and a berth in the Class 6A state tournament at the time of his selection. Through 28 games, Abel owned a 9-0 record on the mound with a 1.34 earned run average and 90 strikeouts in 57.1 innings pitched. He had surrendered just 33 hits and issued 19 walks. At the plate, Abel owned a .294 batting average with 12 runs scored, 14 RBI and a .490 slugging percentage. He is ranked as the nation's No. 8 prospect in the Class of 2020 by Perfect Game.

Abel has volunteered locally by packing clothes for children in foster care on behalf of Northwest Children's Outreach and has also donated his time at a camp for adults with disabilities and at a nursing home. "Mick is a stud—he has been really tough on the mound and he is tough at the plate as well," said Kyle Chamberlain, head coach of Southridge High. "He is extremely competitive on the hill. He doesn't like to lose."

Abel has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Oregon 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.

Abel joins recent Gatorade Oregon Baseball Players of the Year Willie Weiss (2017-18, Westview High School), Tim Tawa (2016-17, West Linn High School), Adley Rutschman (2015-16, Sherwood High School), Jacob Bennett (2014-15, Tualatin High School), and Elliott Cary (2013-14, Clackamas High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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