

## MALVERN PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (May 23, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Chris Newell of Malvern Preparatory School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year**. Newell is the fourth Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Malvern Preparatory 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 Newell as Pennsylvania'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, Newell 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, 200-pound senior outfielder had led the Friars to a 26-5 record at the time of his selection. Newell batted .375 with three home runs, 21 RBI and an on-base percentage of .516 through 31 games. A 2018 Under Armour All-American Game invitee, he is the state's No. 2-ranked prep prospect as rated by Perfect Game and No. 3 by Prep Baseball Report.

A devoted member of his parish community, Newell has completed a service-mission trip to the Dominican Republic and has volunteered locally as a baseball coach for children and young adults with special needs. "Chris Newell is a rare breed," said Malvern Prep head coach Freddy Hilliard. "He's not only our best player, but also one of our most humble, hardest-working and coachable kids, as well. On the field, there is nothing he can't do well. He is truly a five-tool player with an ability to lead, motivate and care about his teammates and team's success more than his own."

Newell has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Virginia this beginning fall, but is projected as an early round selection in June's Major League Baseball draft.

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.

Newell joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Players of the Year Michael Siani (2017-18, William Penn Charter School), Zach Kokoska (2016-17, Greater Latrobe Senior High School), Alex Kirilloff (2015-16, Plum Senior High School), Mike Nikorak (2014-15, Stroudsburg High School), and Brendan McKay (2013-14, Blackhawk High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Newell 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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