

TOMAH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 **Connor Prielipp of Tomah High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Player of the Year**. Prielipp is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tomah 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 Prielipp as Wisconsin'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, Prielipp 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-2, 165-pound senior, left-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Timberwolves to a 10-13 record and a berth in the Division 2 Section 1 Tournament at the time of the selection. Through 23 games, Prielipp owned a 6-2 record with a 0.85 earned run average and had fanned a whopping 118 batters in 49.1 innings pitched. Entering the postseason, he had surrendered just 21 hits and issued five walks. The 2018 Mississippi Valley Conference Pitcher of the Year and the state's top-ranked prospect by Perfect Game, Prielipp was batting .311 with seven doubles, 12 RBI and a .446 slugging percentage.

Prielipp has volunteered locally as a youth baseball and football coach. "In my 24 years of coaching high school baseball, I have not seen a pitcher as dominant as Connor," said Scott Bagniefski, head coach of Aquinas High. "He is a poised presence on the mound. I've seen a few with his 90-mph velocity, but not with his movement or with the fluidity of his motion."

Prielipp has maintained a weighted 3.57 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

Prielipp joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Players of the Year Jack Washburn (2017-18, Webster High School), Ben Dragani (2016-17, Catholic Memorial High School), Gavin Lux (2015-16, Indian Trail High School), Jack Eagan (2014-15, Wautoma High School), and Jeren Kendall (2013-14, Holmen High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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