

**SOUTH PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (May 21, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Hunter Owen of South Portland High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year**. Owen is the second Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Portland 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 Owen as Maine'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, Owen 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, 225-pound senior left-handed pitcher was a Rawlings-Perfect Game 2020 First Team Preseason All-Northeast Region selections and ranks as New England's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2020 by Prep Baseball Report. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Owen compiled a career record of 13-3 on the mound and led the Red Riots (17-2) to the Class A semifinals in 2019, posting a 5-0 record with a 0.17 ERA. A First Team All-State selection and the 2019 Southwestern Maine Activities Association Pitcher of the Year, he surrendered just 16 hits and 11 walks in 40.2 innings pitched last spring, while striking out 73 batters.

A devoted member of his church community, Owen has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs. "Hunter is just a bulldog," said South Portland coach Mike Owens. "He's obviously blessed with talent, but he shines in the biggest moments. He never panics when his back is against the wall and he wants the ball at all times."

Owen has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University.

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 and 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.

Owen joins recent Gatorade Maine Baseball Players of the Year Brendan Tinsman (2017-18, Cape Elizabeth High School), Cam Guarino (2016-17, Falmouth High School), Trevor DeLaite (2015-16, Bangor High School) and Zachary Quintal (2014-15, Marshwood High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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