

**DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 21, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Jack Bulger of DeMatha Catholic High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year**. Bulger is the first Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from DeMatha Catholic 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 Bulger as Maryland'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, Bulger 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-0, 200-pound senior catcher played for the 18-and-under National Team at the WBSC World Cup last September, batting .429 and driving in a pair of runs. A 2019 Under Armour All-American, Bulger belted six home runs in the semifinal round of the event's Home Run Derby at Wrigley Field last July. Bulger was also named to the 2019 WWBA World Championship and Perfect Game Elite Upperclass Championship All-Tournament teams. A 2020 Preseason All-State selection, Bulger hit .500 with four doubles and five RBI, slugging .750 in DeMatha's 6-0 start this spring before the season was cancelled. At the 2018 Perfect Game Junior Nationals, he recorded the No. 1 pop time among catchers (1.80 seconds) and the top exit velocity of batted balls (103 mph). He is ranked as the nation's No. 34 prospect in the Class of 2020 by Perfect Game.

A mentor and coach for Athletic Performance Inc. youth baseball camps, Bulger volunteers on behalf of the Light House Homelessness Prevention Support Center, making bag lunches for the needy. He has also donated his time to feeding the homeless in inner-city Baltimore and has served as volunteer coach for USA Baseball NTIS, in addition to having served as a member of the DeMatha Baseball Leadership Council. "The first time I met Jack Bulger, I knew right away he was a next-level talent," said Bryan Towers, head coach of St. Mary's Ryken High. "Jack's work ethic is second to none—he's extremely devoted to his craft. Behind the plate, his blocking abilities and arm strength set him apart. With the bat in his hands, Jack is well-versed at working counts and getting pitches he likes to hit. He wields a very compact, aggressive swing that generates a lot of exit velocity. Jack is also an instinctive baserunner and has a knack for taking extra bases. Physical attributes aside, he's an intelligent baseball player who is a true student of the game."

Bulger has maintained a 3.86 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.

Bulger joins recent Gatorade Maryland Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Archibald (2017-18, The John Carroll School), Harold Cortijo (2016-17, Riverdale Baptist School), Tyler Blohm (2015-16, Archbishop Spalding High School) and Ljay Newsome (2014-15, Chopticon 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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