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**DEXTER SOUTHFIELD SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Josh Baez of Dexter Southfield School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year**. Baez is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dexter Southfield 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 Baez as Massachusetts' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Baez 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-4, 215-pound junior outfielder was named the Most Valuable Player at the WWBA Upperclass Southeast Labor Day Perfect Game Tournament in September. Baez hit two home runs in nine at-bats over three games at the event for Beast Mode Prime 2021 and reached base safely every time he came to the plate. A transfer to Dexter Southfield for his junior year, Baez posted a .423 batting average with 25 runs scored and 18 RBI as a sophomore for Snowden International School, earning MVP honors at the Boston City League championship game as he led the Cougars to the title.

Baez has volunteered locally helping build the weight room at one of his previous schools, and he has donated his time as a youth baseball coach and umpire. "Josh is a true five-tool player," said Danny Donato, head coach of Dexter Southfield School. "He hits for a high average and his power is off the charts."

Baez has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University beginning in the fall of 2021.

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.

Baez joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Players of the Year Steve Hajjar (2017-18, Central Catholic High School), Matt Tabor (2016-17, Milton Academy), Anthony Videtto (2015-16, Silver Lake Regional High School) and Joe Walsh (2014-15, Plymouth North 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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