

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
GatoradePOYQuestions@Fleishman.com

**MILLARD WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Max Anderson of Millard West High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year**. Anderson is the sixth Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard West 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 Anderson as Nebraska'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, Anderson 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, 205-pound senior shortstop was a Rawlings-Perfect Game 2020 Second Team Preseason All-Central Region selection. He led the Wildcats (28-5) to their first Class A state championship in 2019, hitting .353 with 10 home runs, 28 RBI and 29 runs scored. Captain of the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State team, Anderson was also named to the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska team. A devoted member of his church youth group, Anderson has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs. "Max is one of the most talented players that I've ever coached," said Millard West coach Steve Frey. "He is a constant competitor and a great example to young students and players. I can't wait to follow his career at Texas A&M and hopefully the professional levels."

Anderson has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Texas A&M 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 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.

Two-time winner Anderson joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Dylan Phillips (2017-18, Creighton Prep), Austin Schultz (2016-17, Norris High School) and Cole Stobbe (2015-16, 2014-15 Millard West 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.

###