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**CHARLES W. BAKER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Jason Savacool of Charles W. Baker High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year**. Savacool is the first Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Charles W. Baker 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 Savacool as New York'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, Savacool 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-1, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher, first baseman and third baseman earned the save in the Perfect Game 17U World Series championship game this past summer and was named a Rawlings-Perfect Game 2020 Preseason Second Team All-American. Also member of the USA Baseball U18 National Team, Savacool did not allow a run in three appearances to help the U.S. capture the silver medal at the Baseball World Cup in September. He finished his prep career with an 18-3 record and a 1.31 ERA. In 2019, Savacool led the Bees (16-6) to the sectional championship game, posting a 3-2 record with a 2.45 ERA, recording 87 strikeouts while surrendering just 29 hits and 16 walks in 48.2 innings pitched. He also batted .379 with 13 RBI and 21 runs scored in his final high school season.

A member of his school's Leadership Team, Savacool has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs and a community clean-up initiative. "We've had some really good athletes at Baldwinsville who have moved on and played collegiately and professionally, but we've never had a student-athlete here who has been as driven as Jason Savacool," said Baker coach Dave Penafeather. "What separates him is his attention to all the little things."

Savacool has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Maryland.

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.

Savacool joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Charlie Mack (2017-18, Williamsville East High School), Quentin Holmes (2016-17, Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School), Daniel Bakst (2015-16, Poly Prep Country Day School), and Garrett Whitley (2014-15, Niskayuna 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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