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**ARCHBOLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Kade Kern of Archbold High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year**. Kern is the first Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbold 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 Kern as Ohio'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, Kern 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, 195-pound senior outfielder is the state's top player in the Class of 2020 as rated by Prep Baseball Report and a 2020 Perfect Game Midwest Preseason First Team All-American selection. A 2019 First Team All-State selection, he batted .431 with three home runs, 38 runs scored and 32 RBI for Archbold in 2019, leading the Bluestreaks to a berth in the Division III regional final.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Kern has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and as a youth baseball coach. "Kade Kern has all the tools and talent of a great player," said Archbold head coach Dick Selgo. "He hits for power, runs well, has a very strong arm and is an excellent outfielder. His work ethic is off the charts and he sets a tremendous example for every player in our program."

Kern has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at The Ohio State 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.

Kern joins recent Gatorade Ohio Baseball Players of the Year Nick Northcut (2017-18, Mason High School), Michael Kirian (2016-17, New Riegel High School), Chris Machamer (2015-16, Washington High School), and Ryan Feltner (2014-15, Walsh Jesuit 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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