

**DIXIE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Cooper Vest of Dixie High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year. Vest is the first Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dixie 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 Vest as Utah'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, Vest 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 5-foot-11, 170-pound senior left-handed pitcher and outfielder led the Flyers to three straight Class 4A state championship finals in his career, anchoring title teams in 2017 and 2018. The two-time All-State selection looked poised to repeat the feat in 2020, compiling a 2-0 record and allowing just one hit in 11 innings pitched during Dixie's 6-1 start this spring before the season was cancelled. Vest recorded 20 strikeouts in a 2-0 win over Spanish Fork on March 12. Rated as the nation's No. 197 prospect among outfielders in the Class of 2020 by Perfect Game (No. 1 in Utah), he was also a Perfect Game 2020 West Region Second Team Preseason All-American. He batted .479 as a junior with an OPS of 1.425. Last summer, he led his Utah Marshalls club team to Pathway Games and Gates World Series titles, batting .367 with 12 doubles, two home runs and 31 RBI. In 31 innings on the mound, he compiled a 1.17 ERA and 41-6 strikeouts-to-walk ratio.

Vest served as a Student Body Officer at Dixie, playing a leadership and planning role in all school activities. A student-athlete mentor to youth athletes in the area, he has also donated his time as quorum leader at his church. Vest regularly visits local assisted living communities to interact with residents and perform community service. "Although he plays 4A, Cooper Vest has always put up unbelievable numbers and I would rate his competition in St. George right with 6A," says Lone Peak High School head coach Jeremy Berg. "He had a 20-strikeout game this spring and that was against one of the most respected teams in Utah (Spanish Fork). His numbers at the plate for last season were really good and his pitching was borderline ridiculous."

Vest has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Vest joins recent Gatorade Utah Baseball Players of the Year Austin Deming (2017-18, Snow Canyon High School), Seth Corry (2016-17, Lone Peak High School), and Payton Henry (2015-16 and 2014-15, Pleasant Grove 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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