

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Max Simpson of St. John's College High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year**. Simpson is the fourteenth Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Simpson as District of Columbia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Simpson 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, 210-pound senior first baseman led the Cadets to a 12-2 record and the District of Columbia State Athletic Association championship this past season. Simpson posted a .465 batting average with 17 RBI, 13 runs scored and a 1.217 OPS. The No. 48 draft prospect in the greater D.C./Maryland area as ranked by Perfect Game, he struck out just twice in 50 plate appearances this spring.

Simpson has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and as a youth baseball coach. "Max Simpson is a top talent who had a tremendous year for us," said St. John's College High head coach Mark Gibbs. "He's a fantastic kid and an incredibly hard worker.

Simpson has maintained a 3.13 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Towson University 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 & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Simpson joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Players of the Year Collin Bosley-Smith (2019-20 & 2018-19, Woodrow Wilson High School), Zach Tsakounis (2017-18, St. John's College High School), and Jack Roberts (2016-17, St. John's College High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Simpson has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Simpson is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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