

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Andrew Painter of Calvary Christian Academy** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year**. Painter is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Calvary Christian Academy.

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 Painter as Florida'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, Painter 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-7, 230-pound senior right-handed pitcher compiled a 6-1 record on the mound with a 0.31 ERA and 91 strikeouts in 45.1 innings this past season, leading the Eagles to a 19-5-1 record and a berth in the Class 3A regional quarterfinals. The nation's No. 6 draft prospect as ranked by Baseball America, Painter held opposing hitters to a .119 batting average and struck out 54 percent of the total batters he faced.

Painter has volunteered locally on behalf of the Humane Society of Broward County and United Community Options of South Florida in addition to helping to raise nearly \$7,000 to benefit the OK Kids Korral in association with the Toby Keith Foundation. "Andrew Painter is one of the best high school baseball players in the country, yet he is humble, selfless and focused on others," said Calvary Christian Academy athletic director Keith Huisman. "He is entirely focused on being a good teammate and raising the level of play of those around him. He is the embodiment of what we want a Calvary student-athlete to look like."

Painter has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Florida this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in July's Major League Baseball draft.

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.

Painter joins recent Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Zac Veen (2019-20, Spruce Creek High School), Riley Greene (2018-19, Hagerty High School), Carter Stewart (2017-18, Eau Gallie High School), and Logan Allen (2016-17, University High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Painter has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Painter 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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