

**IDAHO FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Jaxon Sorenson of Idaho Falls High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year**. Sorenson is the second Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Idaho Falls 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 Sorenson as Idaho'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, Sorenson 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 infielder posted a .514 batting average with three home runs, 36 runs scored and 28 RBI this past season, leading the Tigers to a 25-6 record and a berth in the Class 5A quarterfinals. The 2021 Post Register All-Area Player of the Year, Sorenson reached base safely in 29 of 31 games this spring while producing a .616 on-base percentage and an OPS of 1.616.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, where he has donated his time delivering meals at Thanksgiving, Sorenson has volunteered locally on behalf of the Idaho Falls Recreation Department and as a youth baseball coach. "Jaxon Sorenson is a great player who played multiple positions against us, hit in the middle of the lineup and hit with power," said Thunder Ridge High head coach Chris Sundvold. "What sets him apart is that he lived up to the high expectations he had going into this season as a Division 1 recruit. The extra pressure on him only adds to how impressed I am with how he handled it."

Sorenson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Gonzaga University (Washington State) 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.

Sorenson joins recent Gatorade Idaho Baseball Players of the Year Magnum Hofstetter (2019-20, Twin Falls High School), Gabe Hughes (2018-19 & 2017-18, Rocky Mountain High School), and Ethan Christianson (2016-17, Rocky Mountain High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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