

**FRANKLIN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Clark of Franklin Community High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Indiana Baseball Player of the Year**. Clark is the first Gatorade Indiana Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Franklin Community 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 Clark as Indiana'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, Clark 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-1, 185-pound sophomore outfielder and left-handed pitcher posted a .450 batting average with six home runs, 34 runs scored and 30 RBI this past season, leading the Grizzly Cubs to a 20-9 record and a berth in the Class 3A sectional semifinals. The nation's No. 2 draft prospect in the Class of 2023 as ranked by PrepBaseballReport, Clark also compiled a 6-0 record on the mound with a 0.84 ERA and 120 strikeouts in 50 innings.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Clark has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and donated his time as a youth baseball coach. "Max Clark is a five-tool player who can impact any game in many ways," said Franklin Community High head coach Ryan Feyeabend. "In all my years of coaching, I have only seen one or two kids that have the skill set he has and they were all two years older than he is now."

Clark has maintained a 4.01 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University beginning in the fall of 2023.

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.

Clark joins recent Gatorade Indiana Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Lynch (2019-20, Penn High School), Michael Doolin (2018-19, Andean High School), Nicholas Schnell (2017-18, Roncalli High School), and Garrett Schoenle (2016-17, Northrop High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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