

**WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Brady Afthim of Windham High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year**. Afthim is the first Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Windham 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 Afthim as Maine'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, Afthim 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, 185-pound senior right-handed pitcher and catcher compiled a 3-2 record on the mound this past season with a 0.67 ERA and 94 strikeouts against just four walks in 41.2 innings. The state's No. 1 draft prospect as ranked by Perfect Game, Afthim also posted a .473 batting average with three home runs, 17 runs scored and an OPS of 1.288 OPS this spring.

Afthim has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Heart Association and PowerServe, providing home and community maintenance throughout the greater Windham region. "Brady Afthim is the best baseball player in our state and he has all the emotional tools to complement his incredible talents," said Windham High head coach Rich Drummond. "He has done all this with great communication, organization and a sense of humility that is admirable."

Afthim has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Afthim joins recent Gatorade Maine Baseball Players of the Year Hunter Owen (2019-20 & 2018-19, South Portland High School), Brendan Tinsman (2017-18, Cape Elizabeth High School), and Cam Guarino (2016-17, Falmouth High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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