

**DEXTER SOUTHFIELD SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Joshua Baez of Dexter Southfield School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year**. Baez is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dexter Southfield 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 Baez as Massachusetts' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Baez 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, 215-pound senior outfielder and right-handed pitcher posted a .378 batting average with three home runs, 25 runs scored and 13 RBI this past season, leading Dexter Southfield to a 14-2 record. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year and the nation's No. 5 draft prospect as ranked by Perfect Game, he also compiled a 1.94 ERA on the mound while striking out 44 batters in 18 innings.

Baez has volunteered locally by helping to build a weight room at one of his former schools, and he has donated his time as a youth baseball coach and umpire. "Josh Baez is a tremendous athlete and physical specimen and can certainly have a big impact on a game," said Tim Mitropoulos, head coach at Phillips Exeter High. "He has great tools and he is certainly someone you mark in the lineup and make sure that he does not beat you, because he certainly has that potential."

Baez has maintained a 3.09 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University 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.

Two-time winner Baez joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Players of the Year Sebastian Keane (2018-19, North Andover High School), Steve Hajjar (2017-18, Central Catholic High School), and Matt Tabor (2016-17, Milton Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

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