

**ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Brock Porter of St. Mary's Preparatory School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year**. Porter is the second Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Mary's Preparatory 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 Porter as Michigan'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, Porter 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, 205-pound junior right-handed pitcher led the Eaglets to a 43-1 record, the Division 2 state championship and a No. 2 national ranking by MaxPreps this past season. The winning pitcher of the 2019 state title game, Porter fired a complete-game six-hitter in this year's semifinals, surrendering one run and fanning 12. He compiled a 12-0 record on the mound with a 0.56 ERA and 126 strikeouts against just 12 walks in 62.1 innings. He also posted a WHIP of 0.69 and held opposing batters to a .123 average. In 29 at-bats this spring, he hit .310 with 12 RBI, two home runs and an OPS of .915. Ranked as the nation's No. 7 prospect in the Class of 2020 by Perfect Game and No. 5 by the Prep Baseball Report, Porter has also been an MLB Player Development Pipeline invitee.

A past student council president and vice president at St. Mary's, Porter is an altar server at the Holy Spirit Church and a student representative for his school with the Michigan High School Athletic Association Student Advisory Committee. He has also volunteered locally on behalf of St. Williams Church and the Miracle League, in addition to donating his time to the Pickens Baseball Academy as well as multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society. "Brock is by far the most dominant pitcher that I have seen in the 20 years I have been a coach," said Steve Lepkowski, head coach at Detroit Country Day. "On a team full of future Division I collegiate players along with multiple prospective MLB draft picks, he was by far the most elite performer. This season, he featured a fastball that was consistently in the upper 90s, hitting 100 miles per hour at one point during our district championship game, along with secondary pitches that made him virtually unhittable. We had one of the finest offensive teams I've coached this year and he one-hit us. He's more than worthy to be selected as the Gatorade Player of the Year for Michigan and would represent the state in a great way."

Porter has maintained a 4.26 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Clemson University beginning in the fall of 2022.

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.

Porter joins recent Gatorade Michigan Baseball Players of the Year Logan Wood (2019-20, St. Mary's Preparatory), Colin Czajkowski (2018-19, Woodhaven High School), Spencer Schwellenbach (2017-18, Heritage High School), and Steve Mann (2016-17, Detroit Country Day School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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