

**ATWATER-COSMOS-GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Josh Kingery of Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year**. Kingery is the first Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City 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 Kingery as Minnesota'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, Kingery 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 5-foot-11, 185-pound senior left-handed pitcher and outfielder compiled a 13-1 record on the mound with a 0.48 ERA and 182 strikeouts against just six walks in 87 innings this past season, leading the Falcons to a 22-2 record and a berth in the Class AA quarterfinals. The state's No. 9 draft prospect as ranked by PrepBaseballReport, Kingery also posted a .547 batting average with seven home runs, 45 runs scored, 32 RBI and an OPS of 1.493 this spring.

An accomplished vocalist and banjo player, Kingery has performed in local music concerts with his family at church events, county fairs and nursing homes. He has also donated his time as a youth baseball coach. "Josh Kingery is the best player in our area and it's not close," said Dan Berg, head coach at Eden Valley-Watkins High. "He is a well-rounded baseball player that can hit, pitch, throw and field. He is the total package and best that I have seen in high school for quite some time."

Kingery has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom. He will attend the University of Minnesota this fall, where he will play baseball.

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.

Kingery joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Max Carlson (2019-20, Burnsville High School), Drew Gilbert (2018-19, Stillwater Area High School), Seth Halvorsen (2017-18, Heritage Christian Academy), and Sam Carlson (2016-17, Burnsville High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

###