

**LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **John Kramer of Lafayette High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year**. Kramer is the first Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lafayette 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 Kramer as Missouri'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, Kramer 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, 205-pound senior outfielder posted a .483 batting average with 11 home runs, 44 runs scored and 33 RBI this past season, leading the Lancers to a 22-8 record and a berth in the Class 6A district semifinals. The state's No. 4 draft prospect as ranked by Perfect Game, Kramer also compiled a .577 on-base percentage and an OPS of 1.359 this spring.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, where he has volunteered locally on behalf of its youth group, Kramer has also donated his time as a baseball camp counselor and coach. "John Kramer has displayed great power and discipline at the plate," said Lafayette High head coach Boyd Manne. "He always hits in the clutch and his statistics and accomplishments as a high school player speak for themselves."

Kramer has maintained a 3.12 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Mississippi 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.

Kramer joins recent Gatorade Missouri Baseball Players of the Year Christian Little (2019-20, Christian Brothers College High School), Gage Singer (2018-19, Aurora High School), Luke Mann (2017-18, St. John Vianney High School), and Grant Wood (2016-17, Jefferson City High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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