

**ELKHORN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Drew Christo of Elkhorn High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year**. Christo is the second Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Elkhorn 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 Christo as Nebraska'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, Christo 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, 225-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder compiled a 5-2 record on the mound with a 0.43 ERA and 92 strikeouts in 48.2 innings this past season, leading the Antlers to a 20-12 record and a berth in the Class B state playoffs. The state's No. 1 draft prospect as ranked by Perfect Game, Christo also posted a .341 batting average with five home runs, 39 RBI and an OPS of 1.119 this spring.

The president of his school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a three-year member of the National Honor Society, Christo has donated his time as a peer math and science tutor and has volunteered locally as a youth baseball instructor. "Drew Christo is a great athlete and he epitomizes what a well-rounded person should be," said Elkhorn High head coach Kyle McCright. "He has been extremely successful in academics, football, basketball, baseball and numerous other extracurricular activities. He is also humble, kind, hard-working, a good teammate and a leader on and off the field."

Christo has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is ranked first in his class of 334 students. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Christo joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Max Anderson (2019-20, Millard West High School), Cole Evans (2018-19, Grand Island Senior High School), Dylan Phillips (2017-18, Creighton Prep), and Austin Schultz (2016-17, Norris High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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