

**BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Tyler Whitaker of Bishop Gorman High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Nevada Baseball Player of the Year**. Whitaker is the ninth Gatorade Nevada Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Whitaker as Nevada'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, Whitaker 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, 200-pound senior infielder and outfielder led the Gaels to an 18-1 record, the Class 5A southern regional title and a No. 12 national ranking by Baseball America this past season. The state's No. 1 draft prospect as rated by PrepBaseballReport and Perfect Game, Whitaker posted a .508 batting average with five home runs, 32 RBI, 29 runs scored and an OPS of 1.541 this spring.

Whitaker has volunteered locally in association with multiple community service initiatives at his school and has donated his time as a youth baseball coach. "Tyler Whitaker is a phenomenal team leader by example," said Bishop Gorman High head coach Gino DiMaria. "His skill set is second-to-none and he is one of the best players I have coached in my career."

Whitaker has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Arizona 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.

Whitaker joins recent Gatorade Nevada Baseball Players of the Year Carson Wells (2019-20, Bishop Gorman High School), Aaron Roberts (2018-19, Desert Oasis High School), Austin Pfeifer (2017-18, Arbor View High School), and Austin Wells (2016-17, Bishop Gorman High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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