

**MAINLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW JERSEY BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 29, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Chase Petty of Mainland Regional High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year**. Petty is the first Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mainland Regional 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 Petty as New Jersey'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, Petty 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 right-handed pitcher and infielder compiled a 5-1 record on the mound with a 1.15 ERA and 99 strikeouts in 48.2 innings pitched, leading the Mustangs to a 23-4 record and a berth in the South Jersey Group III championship game. The nation's No. 6 draft prospect as ranked by Perfect Game, Petty also posted a .367 batting average with four home runs, 32 RBI, 28 runs scored, 12 stolen bases and an OPS of 1.149.

Petty has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Cancer Society and as a youth baseball coach. "Chase Petty is the best baseball player I have ever coached and has the potential to be a first-round draft pick, but I am most proud of the young man that he has grown to be," said Mainland Regional High head coach Billy Kern. "It is rare to have a player of his ability who is also respected by teammates and opponents wherever he goes. He is quiet, goes about his business and leads by example."

Petty has maintained a 3.04 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Petty joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Players of the Year Kyle Teel (2019-20, Mahwah High School), Jack Leiter (2018-19, Delbarton School), Nick Decker (2017-18, Seneca High School), and Brad Dobzanski (2016-17, Delsea Regional High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Petty has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Petty 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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