

**GREECE ATHENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Casey Saucke of Greece Athena High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year**. Saucke is the third Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Greece Athena 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 Saucke as New York'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, Saucke 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-3, 190-pound senior shortstop posted a .483 batting average with eight home runs, 36 runs scored, 24 RBI and 20 stolen bases, leading the Trojans to a 15-5 record and the Section V Class A state final this past season. The nation's No. 35 draft prospect as ranked by Perfect Game, Saucke also banged out 21 extra-base hits and produced an OPS of 1.862.

Saucke has volunteered locally on behalf of a variety of school fundraisers and for a food shelter while also donating his time as a youth baseball coach. "Casey Saucke is a leader in our school and a tremendous role model for his peers," said Greece Athena High head coach Jason Bunting. "His baseball ability is second to none. I have been coaching for 25 years and I have seen him do some things on the field that I have never seen a high school kid do before. He has tremendous ability and humility to go along with it."

Saucke has maintained a 93.5 average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Saucke joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Jason Savacool (2019-20, Charles W. Baker High School), Joe Vetrano (2018-19, Lakeland High School), Charlie Mack (2017-18, Williamsville East High School), and Quentin Holmes (2016-17, Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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