

**SHEYENNE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Alex Urlaub of Sheyenne High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year**. Urlaub is the first Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sheyenne 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 Urlaub as North Dakota'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, Urlaub 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, 185-pound senior shortstop led the Mustangs to a 26-7 record and the Class A state championship this past season. Urlaub posted a .394 batting average, scored 32 runs and produced 31 RBI along with 15 extra-base hits. The state's No. 1 draft prospect as ranked by Perfect Game, he batted .453 with runners in scoring position and produced an OPS of 1.064 this spring.

A member of the National Honor Society and a devoted parishioner in his church community, Urlaub has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal shelter and as a youth baseball coach. "Alex Urlaub is an exceptional athlete and baseball player," said Luke Rustad, head coach at Fargo Shanley High. "He has unbelievable hands at shortstop and is pretty much automatic on defense when a ball is hit in his direction. Each year, he's gotten better as a hitter and displays a lot of power at the plate. He carries himself like a true leader on the field as well."

Urlaub has maintained a 4.13 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Neosho County Community College in Kansas this fall, where he will play baseball.

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.

Urlaub joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Players of the Year Cole Hage (2019-20, Davies High School), Cade Feeney (2018-19, Century High School), Jake Faircloth (2017-18, West Fargo High School), and Cameron Jorda (2016-17, Dickinson High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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