

**RED LAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Benny Montgomery of Red Land High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year**. Montgomery is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Red Land 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 Montgomery as Pennsylvania’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, Montgomery 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-5, 205-pound senior outfielder posted a .420 batting average with seven home runs, 44 runs scored and 22 RBI this past season, leading the Patriots to a 25-5 record and a berth in the Class 5A state final. The nation’s No. 9 draft prospect as ranked by Perfect Game, Montgomery also stole 19 bases, drew 18 walks and batted .417 with runners in scoring position.

A member of the National Honor Society and his school’s ski club, Montgomery has volunteered locally on behalf of the ALS Association. “Benny Montgomery’s work ethic is second-to-none,” said Red Land High head coach Nathan Ebbert, “I can’t tell you how many times I would go over to the baseball field and see him running hills in the summer heat. He also puts in hours upon hours in the batting cage.”

Montgomery has maintained a 4.04 GPA 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.

Montgomery joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Players of the Year Nick Bitsko (2019-20, Central Bucks East High School), Chris Newell (2018-19, Malvern Preparatory School), Michael Siani (2017-18, William Penn Charter School), and Zach Kokoska (2016-17, Greater Latrobe Senior High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

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