

**BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Brandyn Durand of Bishop Hendricken High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year**. Durand is the thirteenth Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Hendricken 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 Durand as Rhode Island'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, Durand 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, 230-pound junior catcher posted a .463 batting average with three home runs, 20 RBI and 14 runs scored this past season, leading the Hawks to an 11-4 record and the Division I postseason. New England's No. 5 draft prospect in the Class of 2022 as ranked by PrepBaseballReport, Durand averaged an RBI every two at-bats and produced an OPS of 1.406.

Durand has volunteered locally at a nursing home and has donated his time as a youth baseball coach. "Brandyn Durand is the best baseball athlete at Hendricken since (first round draft pick and seven-year big-leaguer) Rocco Baldelli in 2000," said Bishop Hendricken head coach Ed Holloway. "He is a five-tool player and I expect him to be drafted after his senior year."

Durand has maintained a 3.44 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky beginning in the fall of 2022.

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.

Durand joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Players of the Year Brad Lombardi (2019-20, Bishop Hendricken High School), Tucker Flint (2018-19, Bishop Hendricken High School), Ben Sears (2017-18, East Providence High School), and Sam Kenyon (2016-17, South Kingstown High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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