

**JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Cullen Horowicz of Jefferson High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year**. Horowicz is the sixth Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jefferson 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 Horowicz as West Virginia'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, Horowicz 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-4, 230-pound senior third baseman had led the Cougars (27-3) to the Class AAA state tournament at the time of his selection. Horowicz posted a .437 batting average with 41 RBI, 40 runs scored and an OPS of 1.704 through 30 games. The state's No. 2 draft prospect as rated by both Perfect Game and Prep Baseball Report, he won the prestigious National Power Showcase in 2020 at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, Horowicz has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. "Cullen Horowicz has a strong work ethic and is always striving for improvement both offensively and defensively," said Jefferson High head coach John Lowery. "He has tremendous power that reflects the hard work he has put in to become an offensive force."

Horowicz has maintained a 4.03 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a certificate of commitment to play baseball on scholarship at the United States Military Academy at West Point this fall.

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.

Horowicz joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Players of the Year Austin Dearing (2019-20, Hurricane High School), Chase DeLauter (2018-19, Hedgesville High School), Ross Mulhall (2017-18, University High School), and Drew Hefner (2016-17, Bridgeport High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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