

**SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 3, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Curtis Hebert** of **South Anchorage High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year**. Hebert is the fourth Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Hebert as Alaska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Hebert 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 (2006-07, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior catcher, infielder and right-handed pitcher posted a 3-0 record on the mound with a 0.00 ERA and 34 strikeouts in 19 innings pitched this past season, leading the Wolves to a 21-0 record and a berth in the Division I state tournament. The state's No. 1 prospect as rated by Perfect Game, Hebert did not surrender a hit during any of the five games in which he pitched. Through 21 games, he batted .403 with two home runs and 24 RBI, swiping eight bases without being caught.

Hebert has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and as a youth baseball coach. "Curtis is one of those players that coaches love because of his competitive nature and his versatility," said South Anchorage head coach Taylor Nerland. "No matter where you put him on the field, you know that he's going to get the job done."

Hebert has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Portland 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Hebert joins recent Gatorade Alaska Baseball Players of the Year Dylan Maltby (2020-21, South Anchorage High School), Leland Wilson (2019-20, West Anchorage High School), Jacob Woodall (2018-19, South Anchorage High School), and Michael Cesar (2017-18, Juneau-Douglas High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Hebert has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Hebert is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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