

**JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 3, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Matt Scott** of **Joel Barlow High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year**. Scott is the first Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Joel Barlow 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 Scott as Connecticut'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, Scott 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-6, 225-pound senior right-handed pitcher and designated hitter posted a 7-0 record on the mound with a 0.18 ERA and 82 strikeouts to just 10 walks in 39 innings pitched through 21 games, leading the Falcons to an 18-3 record and a berth in the Class M state tournament, scheduled to begin June 3. The state's No. 1 rated prospect as rated by Perfect Game and the 2021 Southwest Conference Player of the Year, Scott also batted .564 with four home runs, 34 RBI, 23 runs and a 1.676 OPS.

A member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society, Scott has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group, an assisted living facility and as a youth baseball coach. "Matt Scott is an exceedingly rare combination of extreme talent, relentless work ethic and unwavering character," said Joel Barlow head coach Matthew Griffiths. "Despite all of the pressure and attention that comes from his success, he is unbelievably selfless and team-centered. He has been integral in changing our culture from mediocre and complacent to successful and hungry."

Scott has maintained a 4.27 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Stanford University 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.

Scott joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Players of the Year Connor Podeszwa (2020-21, Waterford High School), Jared Burrows (2019-20, Waterford High School), Chad Knight (2018-19, Staples High School), and Patrick Winkel (2017-18, Amity Regional 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, Scott 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. Scott 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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