

**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Nick Morabito** of **Gonzaga College High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year**. Morabito is the second Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 Morabito as District of Columbia'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, Morabito 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 5-foot-11, 195-pound senior center fielder led the Eagles to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference and DCSAA tournament titles this past season. Morabito batted .545 with 12 home runs, 10 doubles and six triples. The co-Player of the Year in the WCAC, he walked 29 times and stole 52 bases, compiling a .644 on-base percentage and a 1.119 slugging percentage while playing superb defense in the outfield.

Morabito has volunteered locally with the Father McKenna Center food drive. He has also donated his time with the Share Food Network and as a youth baseball coach and mentor. "Nick's in-game speed was about as good as I've ever seen," said Kyle Padgett, head coach of Bishop O'Connell High School. "He played an outstanding center field and was a terror on the base paths. Nick is a stud."

Morabito has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Virginia Tech 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Morabito joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Players of the Year Max Simpson (2020-21, St. John's College High School), Collin Bosley-Smith (2019-20 & 2018-19, Wilson High School), and Zach Tsakounis (2017-18, St. John's College 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, Morabito 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. Morabito 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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