

**MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Roman Anthony** of **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year**. Anthony is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Marjory Stoneman Douglas 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 Anthony as Florida'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, Anthony 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-4, 195-pound senior outfielder led the Eagles to a 30-2 record, the Class 7A state title and the No. 1 national ranking as a team by Perfect Game. Ranked as the nation's No. 29 MLB Draft prospect in the Class of 2022 by Baseball America, Anthony batted .520 with 10 home runs and 40 RBI while amassing an OPS of 1.569. He also scored 36 runs and swiped 21 bases, with 25 of his 52 hits going for extra bases. He did not make an error in the field all season.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, Anthony has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and has participated in charitable fund-raising activities to benefit cancer patients. "Roman Anthony's bat is his greatest tool," said Stoneman-Douglas head coach Todd Fitz-Gerald. "He can hit and hit for power, but his strengths are his knowledge of the game and his mindset. He never gets too high or too low. He has put together one of the most impressive springs from a player that I've ever seen."

Anthony has maintained a 3.13 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Mississippi this fall, but is projected to be an early round selection in July's 2020 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.

Anthony joins recent Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Andrew Painter (2020-21, Calvary Christian Academy), Zac Veen (2019-20, Spruce Creek High School), Riley Greene (2018-19, Hagerty High School), and Carter Stewart (2017-18, Eau Gallie 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, Anthony 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. Anthony 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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