

**RIVERSIDE BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Owen Murphy** of **Riverside Brookfield High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year**. Murphy is the first Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverside Brookfield 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 Murphy as Illinois' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Murphy 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, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Bulldogs to a 30-5 record and a berth in the sectional semifinals at the time of his selection. Murphy posted a 9-0 record with a 0.12 ERA through 35 games, surrendering just 10 hits and four walks in 58.1 innings pitched while striking out 137 batters. He also batted .550 with 18 home runs and 75 RBI. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason First Team All-American, Murphy was also a member of the USA Baseball 18U National Team. He was the Prep Baseball Report's Illinois Player of the Year as a junior.

Murphy has volunteered locally on behalf of the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital. "I'm not sure there's even anyone else in the same category with Owen Murphy for the season he has put together," said Sean O'Connor, head coach at St. Ignatius College Prep. "The stats are almost laughable on both the offensive and the pitching side, but he is as good as advertised. The kid just competes and does it amazingly well."

Murphy has maintained a weighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Murphy joins recent Gatorade Illinois Baseball Players of the Year Nick DeMarco (2020-21, St. Charles North High School), Ed Howard (2019-20, Mount Carmel High School), Quinn Priester (2018-19, Cary-Grove High School), and Matt McCormick (2017-18, St. Laurence 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, Murphy 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. Murphy 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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