

**FRANKLIN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 **Max Clark of Franklin Community High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Indiana Baseball Player of the Year**. Clark is the first Gatorade Indiana Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Franklin Community 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 Clark as Indiana'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, Clark 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, 193-pound junior outfielder and left-handed pitcher batted .577 with nine home runs, 41 runs scored and 32 RBIs this past season, leading the Grizzly Cubs (16-10) to the Class 4A sectional quarterfinals. Clark is the nation's No. 1 draft prospect in the Class of 2023 as ranked by Perfect Game and he's also the state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year. He finished with a 2-0 record on the mound this spring, posting a 0.44 ERA with 39 strikeouts in 16 innings pitched.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, for which he has served as president, Clark has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and has donated his time as a youth baseball coach. "From an athletic standpoint, Max Clark is in a class by himself," said Phil Kluesner, head coach at Bloomington South High. "He has blazing speed, next-level power, and power to all fields. His presence at the plate is always disruptive to the opposing team's defense. He is also humble and polite to people he doesn't know and gives a lot of his time back to the Franklin community."

Clark has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University beginning in the fall of 2023.

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.

Two-time winner Clark joins recent Gatorade Indiana Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Lynch (2019-20, Penn High School), Michael Doolin (2018-19, Andean High School), and Nicholas Schnell (2017-18, Roncalli 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, Clark 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. Clark 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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