

**WAHLERT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 **Aaron Savary** of **Wahlert Catholic High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year**. Savary is the first Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Wahlert Catholic 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 Savary as Iowa'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, Savary 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-3, 185-pound senior right-handed pitcher and third baseman led the Golden Eagles to a 32-11 record and a berth in the 3A state championship game this past season. Savary went 9-1 on the mound with a 1.27 earned-run average and struck out 96 batters in 66 innings pitched. He also finished with a .319 batting average, drove in 32 runs and hit six home runs.

Savary has volunteered locally as an umpire at youth baseball games and at the Wahlert Baseball Youth Camp. He also has donated his time on behalf of the Resurrection Parish Festival. "He's been a varsity pitcher since his freshman season and was able to get guys out throwing mid 70s—in other words he already knew how to pitch," said Iowa City West High School head coach Charlie Stumpff. "Now, he is an upper-80s guy who touches 90 and is almost unhittable. And at the plate, he has outstanding power."

Savary has maintained a 3.87 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed his National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Savary joins recent Gatorade Iowa Baseball Players of the Year Brody Brecht (2020-21, Ankeny High School), Calvin Harris (2019-20 & 2018-19, Western Dubuque High School), and Connor Van Scoyoc (2017-18, Jefferson 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, Savary 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. Savary 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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