

**THORNTON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Cody Bowker** of **Thornton Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year**. Bowker is the first Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Thornton Academy.

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 Bowker as Maine'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, Bowker 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-2, 195-pound senior outfielder and right-handed pitcher batted .490 with four home runs and 18 RBI through 16 games, leading the Golden Trojans (18-1) to the Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin June 7. Bowker also drew 17 walks and scored 29 runs. The state's No. 3 prospect in the Class of 2022 as ranked by Perfect Game, he also compiled a 6-0 record on the mound with a 0.48 ERA and 74 strikeouts in 44 innings pitched.

Bowker has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society and has donated his time as a youth baseball coach. "Cody Bowker is the definition of a team leader," said Thornton Academy head coach Jason Lariviere. "He leads by example both on the field and in the classroom. He loves being the guy we lean on in tough games. He always puts the additional work in and truly loves the game of baseball."

Bowker has maintained a 4.03 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Georgetown University 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.

Bowker joins recent Gatorade Maine Baseball Players of the Year Brady Afthim (2020-21, Windham High School), Hunter Owen (2019-20 & 2018-19, South Portland High School), and Brendan Tinsman (2017-18, Cape Elizabeth 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, Bowker 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. Bowker 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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