

**DON BOSCO PREP STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Caden Dana** of **Don Bosco Prep** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year**. Dana is the first Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Don Bosco Prep.

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 Dana as New Jersey'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, Dana 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-5, 225-pound senior third baseman and right-handed pitcher compiled a 4-0 record on the mound with a 0.80 ERA and 42 strikeouts, walking only four batters in 25 innings through 24 games, leading the Ironmen (20-4) to a berth in the NJSIAA Non-Public A quarterfinals, scheduled for June 3. Dana is the state's No. 2 recruit as rated by the Prep Baseball Report. He also batted .432 with three home runs and 14 RBI to post an OPS of 1.340 OPS entering the postseason round of eight.

Dana has volunteered locally in association with his school's student-athlete leadership program and on behalf of a homeless shelter. "Caden Dana is competitive and hard-nosed and demonstrates maturity beyond his years in his ability to make mental and physical adjustments," said Don Bosco Prep head coach Mike Rooney. "He is an extremely passionate athlete who loves to play the game."

Dana has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Dana joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Players of the Year Chase Petty (2020-21, Mainland Regional High School), Kyle Teel (2019-20, Mahwah High School), Jack Leiter (2018-19, Delbarton School), and Nick Decker (2017-18, Seneca 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, Dana 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. Dana 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).