

**TROY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Mike Kennedy** of **Troy High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year**. Kennedy is the first Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Troy 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 Kennedy as New York'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, Kennedy 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, 205-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Flying Horses to a 12-7 record and the sectional semifinals this past season. Kennedy posted a 6-0 record with a 0.60 ERA, striking out 65 batters in 35 innings pitched while surrendering just 15 hits and eight walks. He also batted .361 with two home runs and 12 RBI. The Suburban Council Player of the Year, he was a member of the USA Baseball 18U National Team, played in the 2021 Area Code Games and was named a Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason Second Team All-American.

Kennedy has volunteered locally on behalf of the Troy CYO Center, food pantries and a youth baseball program. "I've been around high school baseball as a coach for 11 years and I've never faced a player with the abilities of Mike Kennedy," said Adam Penrose, head coach at Albany Academy. "He can hit 94 with his fastball and he has three plus pitches that he can throw for strikes in any count. He's the cream of the crop."

Kennedy has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Louisiana State 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.

Kennedy joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Casey Saucke (2020-21, Greece Athena High School), Jason Savacool (2019-20, Charles W. Baker High School), Joe Vetrano (2018-19, Lakeland High School), and Charlie Mack (2017-18, Williamsville East 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, Kennedy 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. Kennedy 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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