

**LIBERTY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Jacob Miller** of **Liberty Union High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year**. Miller is the first Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Liberty Union 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 Miller as Ohio'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, Miller 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.).

At the time of his selection, 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior designated hitter and right-handed pitcher compiled a 6-0 record on the mound with one save, a 0.35 ERA and 94 strikeouts, issuing just six walks in 40 innings, leading the Lions (25-5) to a berth in the Division III regional semifinals. The state's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2022 as ranked by Perfect Game and the nation's No. 24 recruit by the Prep Baseball Report, Miller held opposing hitters to a .096 batting average and 78.3 percent of the outs he recorded via strikeouts this spring. He is rated by Baseball America as the nation's No. 13 high school prospect in the upcoming July MLB Draft.

Miller has volunteered locally both as a youth baseball coach and a basketball referee. "Jacob Miller is one of the best players I have seen at the high school level," said Ryan Goetzman, head coach at Cardington-Lincoln High School. "I would challenge anyone to find someone who would be more deserving of this award than he is."

Miller has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Louisville this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in July's Major League Baseball Draft.

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.

Miller joins recent Gatorade Ohio Baseball Players of the Year Josh Laisure (2020-21, Olentangy Orange High School), Kade Kern (2019-20, Archbold High School), Mack Anglin (2018-19, Highland High School), and Nick Northcut (2017-18, Mason 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, Miller 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. Miller 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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