

**LAKERIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Paul Wilson** of **Lakeridge High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year**. Wilson is the first Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeridge 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 Wilson as Oregon'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, Wilson 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, 205-pound junior left-handed pitcher led the Pacers to a 25-6 record, a first-place finish in the 6A Three Rivers League and a trip to the 6A state semifinals. Wilson finished with a 9-2 on the mound with one save and an ERA of 0.74. He struck out 155 and walked 30 in 65 2/3 innings pitched. Also a first baseman and an outfielder, he batted .358 with five home runs and 34 RBI, scoring 25 runs.

The son of former Major League pitcher Trevor Wilson, he has volunteered locally as an instructor at Lakeridge youth baseball camps. He also has donated his time, along with teammates, by visiting with residents of a local senior care facility at an annual Valentine's Day dance. "He was the most dominating pitcher because he possesses a plus left-handed arm, (throws) in the mid 90s and has developed his off-speed pitches since last year," said Lake Oswego High head coach Jake Anders. "When his off-speed is working, he's been pretty much unhittable."

Wilson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Oregon State University beginning in the fall of 2023.

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.

Wilson joins recent Gatorade Oregon Baseball Players of the Year Mason Guerra (2020-21, Westview High School), Mick Abel (2019-20 & 2018-19, Jesuit High School), and Willie Weiss (2017-18, Westview 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, Wilson 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. Wilson 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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