

**SOUTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Ben Brutti** of **South Kingstown High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year**. Brutti is the third Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Kingstown 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 Brutti as Rhode Island'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, Brutti 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, 200-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Rebels to a 17-3 record and a berth in the Division 1 state quarterfinals. Brutti owned a 7-1 record on the mound with a 0.46 ERA through 19 games, fanning 105 batters while surrendering just 14 hits and issuing only 11 walks in 46 innings pitched. Brutti, who did not play as a junior because of a back injury, batted .465 with two home runs, 21 RBI and a .586 on-base percentage.

Brutti has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank, and he has donated his time as a flag football referee and youth baseball coach. "Ben has completely dominated Rhode Island high school baseball in 2022," said Matt McGuire, head coach of Portsmouth High School. "As a pitcher, he is nearly untouchable, but offensively he's been a weapon, too. He is the best player in Rhode Island."

Brutti has maintained a weighted 4.19 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of South Florida 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.

Brutti joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Players of the Year Brandyn Durand (2020-21, Bishop Hendricken High School), Brad Lombardi (2019-20, Bishop Hendricken High School), Tucker Flint (2018-19, Bishop Hendricken High School), and Ben Sears (2017-18, East Providence 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, Brutti 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. Brutti 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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