

**OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALABAMA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 2, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Hayes Harrison** of **Oxford High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year**. Harrison is the first Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oxford 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 Harrison as Alabama'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, Harrison joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Jackson Holliday (2021-22, Stillwater High School, Okla.), Bobby Witt Jr. (2018-19, Colleyville Heritage High School, Texas), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.).

The 6-foot, 180-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Yellowjackets to a 39-6 record and the Class 6A state championship this past season. Harrison compiled a 13-0 record on the mound with a 1.28 ERA, striking out 82 batters while allowing just 43 hits and 11 walks in 71 innings pitched. The 2023 Class 6A Tournament MVP, he posted a .382 batting average with nine doubles, 38 RBI and a .497 on-base percentage.

Harrison has done modeling shoots with apparel companies and boasts more than 350,000 followers on social media. He has volunteered locally as a bible study group leader and as a youth baseball coach. "Hayes Harrison was the best player we faced all year," said Eric Varnadore, head coach of Fort Payne High School. "He dominated on the mound—threw four pitches for strikes and changed speeds every pitch. He was composed, pitched with superior confidence and his teammates played better around him because of it."

Harrison has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Northwest Shoals Community College 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.

Harrison joins recent Gatorade Alabama Baseball Players of the Year Drew Nelson (2021-22, Pike Liberal Arts School), Maddux Bruns (2020-21, UMS-Wright Preparatory School), William Kohn (2019-20, Chilton County High School), and Gunnar Henderson (2018-19, Morgan Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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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