

**STRAWBERRY CREST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Arjun Nimmala** of **Strawberry Crest High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year**. Nimmala is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Strawberry Crest 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 Nimmala as Florida'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, Nimmala 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-1, 170-pound senior shortstop led the Chargers to a 17-8 record and the district semifinals this past season. Nimmala batted .479 with six home runs, 29 RBI, 30 runs scored and a slugging percentage of .904. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason First Team All-American, he was also an Under Armour All-American, a First Team All-Conference selection and earned the Wade Boggs Athletic Achievement Award. He's ranked as the nation's No. 3 prospect in the Class of 2023 by Perfect Game USA.

Nimmala has served as a tutor for younger students in his school's International Baccalaureate program and has volunteered delivering gifts to needy families during the holiday season. "Arjun Nimmala is one of the best high school baseball players I've ever seen," said Victor Martinez, head coach at Lennard High School. "He's the overall package. Very good hands and feet, and the arm (strength) to make every throw. He's got plus power and makes a lot of hard contact."

Nimmala has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Florida State University 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.

Nimmala joins recent Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Roman Anthony (2021-22, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School), Andrew Painter (2020-21, Calvary Christian Academy), Zac Veen (2019-20, Spruce Creek High School), and Riley Greene (2018-19, Hagerty High School), 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 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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