

**MAHOMET-SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 **Blake Wolters** of **Mahomet-Seymour High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year**. Wolters is the first Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mahomet-Seymour 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 Wolters as Illinois' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Wolters 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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-5, 220-pound senior right-handed pitcher had led the Bulldogs to a 32-5 record and the Class 3A sectional semifinals. Wolters posted a 7-1 record with a 0.43 ERA through 37 games, surrendering just 13 hits and 14 walks in 48.2 innings pitched while striking out 106 batters. He also batted .440 with nine home runs and 39 RBI. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason Second Team All-American, he was a First Team All-State honoree and the News-Gazette Player of the Year.

Wolters has volunteered locally on behalf of his school's freshman mentoring program as well as youth sports camps and a Challenger League baseball team for children with physical and intellectual challenges. "Blake Wolters is far and away the best pitcher we've seen this season," said J.D. Arnold, head coach at Mount Zion High School. "He has three 'plus' pitches that he can throw at any point in the count. His fastball was 94-97 MPH, but his off-speed stuff was what I walked away most impressed with."

Wolters has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Arizona 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.

Wolters joins recent Gatorade Illinois Baseball Players of the Year Owen Murphy (2021-22, Riverside Brookfield High School), Nick DeMarco (2020-21, St. Charles North High School), Ed Howard (2019-20, Mount Carmel High School), and Quinn Priestler (2018-19, Cary-Grove 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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