

**OLATHE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Nick English** of **Olathe South High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Kansas Baseball Player of the Year**. English is the first Gatorade Kansas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olathe South 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 English as Kansas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, English 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 5-foot-10, 180-pound senior catcher batted .418 with five home runs, 20 RBI and 15 runs scored this past season, leading the Falcons (15-7) to the Class 6A regional final. The unanimous Class 6A Player of the Year, English also had a .523 on-base percentage and a .746 slugging percentage. The state's top-ranked catcher by both Perfect Game and Prep Baseball Report, he threw out six of 10 attempted base stealers, picked off seven other runners and was unable to corral only eight wild pitches over 117 innings behind the plate.

English started his own fence-staining operation and has volunteered locally cooking and bringing meals to his grandparents and elderly neighbors. "Nick English is the best player in the state of Kansas—no doubt," said Brad Stoll, head coach at Lawrence High School. "The dude is a complete hitter and absolutely shuts down the running game. Best player in the state."

English has maintained a weighted 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Kansas State University 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.

English joins recent Gatorade Kansas Baseball Players of the Year Ben Kudrna (2020-21, Blue Valley Southwest High School), Jackson Lovich (2021-22, Blue Valley West High School), and Jace Kaminska (2019-20 & 2018-19, Caney Valley 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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