

**OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 **Caleb Bonemer** of **Okemos High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year**. Bonemer is the first Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Okemos 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 Bonemer as Michigan'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, Bonemer 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-1, 198-pound junior shortstop had led the Wolves to a 20-4-1 record. Bonemer batted .541 with eight home runs, 35 RBI, 15 stolen bases and a slugging percentage of 1.064 through 25 games. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason First Team Underclass All-American and a three-time All-Conference honoree, he's ranked as the nation's No. 49 prospect in the Class of 2024 by Perfect Game USA. He was also a participant in the USA Baseball 16U/17U National Team Development Program.

Bonemer has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs. "Caleb Bonemer is the best hitter we've faced, by far," said Steve Lepkowski, head coach at Detroit Country Day School. "Defensively, he's as good at shortstop as anyone we've seen. If he's played against everyone the way he played against us, I'd be hard-pressed to think there's a better player in the state of Michigan."

Bonemer has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Bonemer joins recent Gatorade Michigan Baseball Players of the Year Brock Porter (2021-22 & 2020-21, St. Mary's Preparatory School), Logan Wood (2019-20, St. Mary's Preparatory School), and Colin Czajkowski (2018-19, Woodhaven 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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