

**ESKO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Cale Haugen** of **Esko High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year**. Haugen is the first Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Esko 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 Haugen as Minnesota'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, Haugen 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, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Eskomos to a 19-1 record and a berth in the sectional tournament. Haugen posted a 5-0 record with a 0.22 ERA through 20 games, striking out 67 in 32.1 innings pitched while surrendering just 16 hits and nine walks. He also batted .571 with six home runs, 36 RBI, 17 stolen bases and a slugging percentage of 1.127. An All-State selection, he is also a two-time All-Conference and All-Section honoree, the Pine Journal Player of the Year and a member of the Duluth News Tribune All-Area team.

A member of the National Honor Society, Haugen has volunteered locally on behalf of blood-donation drives, the Adopt-a-Highway program and youth sports teams. "Cale Haugen is a very talented two-way baseball player," said Nick Garramone, head coach at Marshall School. "He's a strong kid who hits from the left side with a lot of pop, and he's also a power pitcher with plus breaking pitches. Very athletic, and I think he has room to grow as well."

Haugen has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Minnesota State University, Mankato 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.

Haugen joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Sam Kennedy (2021-22, North High School), Josh Kingery (2020-21, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City High School), Max Carlson (2019-20, Burnsville High School), and Drew Gilbert (2018-19, Stillwater Area 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](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).