

**LIBERTY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Tate McGuire** of **Liberty North High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year**. McGuire is the first Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Liberty North 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 McGuire as Missouri'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, McGuire 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-4, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Eagles to a 32-7 record and the Class 6 semifinals. McGuire posted a 10-0 record with a 0.13 ERA through 39 games, surrendering just 23 hits and 14 walks in 53.2 innings pitched while striking out 98 batters. He also batted .360 with two home runs and 39 RBI. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason First Team All-Central Region selection, he's also a three-time All-State honoree and two-time Conference Pitcher of the Year.

McGuire has volunteered locally on behalf of toy donation drives and youth baseball programs. "McGuire has the best arm in the state," said Jay Meyer, head coach at Lee's Summit West High School. "He's got great command, great stuff, very consistent—I've yet to see him be anything but really good on the mound. He's also probably one of the top two or three bats on this side of the state."

McGuire has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

McGuire joins recent Gatorade Missouri Baseball Players of the Year Karson Milbrandt (2021-22, Liberty High School), John Kramer (2020-21, Lafayette High School), Christian Little (2019-20, Christian Brothers College High School), and Gage Singer (2018-19, Aurora 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).