

**MILLBURN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Steven Echavarria** of **Millburn High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year**. Echavarria is the first Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millburn 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 Echavarria as New Jersey'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, Echavarria 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-2, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Millers (26-3) to the Section 2, Group 3 final. Echavarria compiled a 7-1 record with a 0.32 ERA while striking out 72 batters over 43.2 innings through 29 games. Ranked as the state's top prospect in the Class of 2023 by Perfect Game, he also batted .312 with five home runs, 32 RBI, 21 runs scored, a .444 on-base percentage and a .612 slugging percentage entering the title game. A three-time All-Super Essex Conference selection, he threw a complete game shutout to defeat Seton Hall Prep, 3-0, and win the Greater Newark Tournament.

Echavarria has volunteered locally as part of the school's PAIRS Club, which organizes and runs recreational events for special needs children. "He just continues to get better and better each time we face him," said Ron Gavazzi, head coach at Montclair High School. "He pitched his best when his team needed him the most this season. Steven is certainly a worthy candidate for this award."

Echavarria has maintained a 3.38 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Florida 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.

Echavarria joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Players of the Year Caden Dana (2021-22, Don Bosco Prep), Chase Petty (2020-21, Mainland Regional High School), Kyle Teel (2019-20, Mahwah High School), and Jack Leiter (2018-19, Delbarton 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.