

**MINOT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Eli Nissen** of **Minot High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year**. Nissen is the sixth Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Minot 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 Nissen as North Dakota'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, Nissen 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 5-foot-11, 205-pound senior left-handed pitcher had led the Magicians to a 17-8 record and the No. 4 seed in the Western Dakota Association tournament. Nissen compiled a 4-0 record with a 0.00 ERA, holding opposing batters to a 0.57 average. He fanned 50 hitters in 22 innings, including a 17-strikeout perfect game against Bismarck to help Minot advance to the state qualifying round. He ranks as North Dakota's No. 1 prospect in the Class of 2023 according to Perfect Game and also played for the FTB Phillies 2023 American Scout Team in Sanford, Florida.

A member of both Minot's Honor Society and Student Council, Nissen has volunteered locally as a church usher and on behalf of Special Olympics baseball. "He's a pitcher we do not want to face," said Century High School head coach Kent Schweigert. "He's one of the top pitchers in North Dakota and can shut you down on any given day. He throws hard and has command of all his pitches."

Nissen has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Creighton University (Neb.) 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.

Nissen joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Players of the Year Troy Berg (2021-22, Dickinson High School), Alex Urlaub (2020-21, Sheyenne High School), Cole Hage (2019-20, Davies High School), and Cade Feeney (2018-19, Century 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).