

**PIGEON FORGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Dylan Loy** of **Pigeon Forge High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year**. Loy is the second Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pigeon Forge 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 Loy as Tennessee'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, Loy 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.).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman compiled an 11-1 record with a 0.10 earned run average on the mound this past season, leading the Tigers (25-9) to the Class 2A sectional series. Loy struck out 169 batters in 71.1 innings pitched, allowing just 23 hits and 11 walks. At the plate, the Class 2A Mr. Baseball winner posted a .549 batting average with 13 doubles, 35 runs scored, 35 RBI and a .879 slugging percentage.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, Loy has donated his time preparing and delivering meals to disadvantaged families during the holidays. He has also volunteered by assisting the elderly with yard work and clean-up activities in addition to serving as a youth baseball coach. "Dylan has been awesome, both at the plate and on the mound," said Brett Gaff, head coach of Gatlinburg-Pittman High School. "When he is on the mound, he changes the game. He has the confidence that he is going to dominate. He's the reason for their success."

Loy 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 Tennessee 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.

Two-time winner Loy joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Players of the Year Cooper Kinney (2020-21, Baylor School) and Robert Hassell (2019-20 & 2018-19, Independence 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).