

**SINTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Blake Mitchell** of **Sinton High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year**. Mitchell is the first Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sinton 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 Mitchell as Texas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Mitchell 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, 205-pound senior catcher had led the Pirates to a 35-2 record and the Class 4A regional finals. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Mitchell batted .471 with six home runs, 41 RBI, 47 runs scored, 35 stolen bases and an on-base percentage of .692 through 37 games. The MVP of the 2022 Under Armour All-America Game, he was a Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason First Team All-American and a MaxPreps All-American. Also a member of the USA Baseball 18U National Team which won a gold medal at the WBSC Baseball World Cup last summer, he's ranked as the nation's No. 5 prospect in the Class of 2023 by Prep Baseball Report.

Mitchell has volunteered locally on behalf of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. "Blake Mitchell is a once-in-a-generation type of baseball player," said Arturo Elizondo, head coach at Rockport-Fulton High School. "He can play any position on the field at a high level, but his catching in particular is superb. Just a great player on the field and a great person off of it."

Mitchell has maintained a 4.24 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Louisiana State University this fall, but is projected as an early-round selection in July's Major League Baseball draft.

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 Mitchell joins recent Gatorade Texas Baseball Players of the Year Jordan Lawlar (2020-21, Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas), Jared Kelley (2019-20, Refugio High School), and Bobby Witt Jr. (2018-19, Colleyville Heritage 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.