

**AMERICAN FORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 **Ryder Robinson** of **American Fork High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year**. Robinson is the second Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from American Fork 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 Robinson as Utah'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, Robinson 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 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior shortstop batted .466 with eight home runs and 27 RBI this past season, leading the Cavemen (20-13) to a Class 6A state championship. Ranked as the state's top prospect in the Class of 2023 by Prep Baseball Report, Robinson was the state leader in runs scored (50), drew 27 walks and struck out just three times in 130 plate appearances. He also swiped 12 bases, posting an on-base percentage of .573 and a slugging percentage of .893. A three-time Class 6A state champion (2020 and 2021 the others), he was a Perfect Game All-American in 2022.

Robinson has volunteered locally as the president of the teacher quorum at his church, where he leads his peers in performing service projects and helping the elderly. "Ryder is an extremely hard worker with the best hand tools I've seen in a long time," said Matt Bezzant, head coach at Lone Peak High School. "The way he picks it (defensively) is next level and he's the best hitter in the best region and in the state, in my opinion. It's evident watching him play that his skill set will translate to big things at the next level. Hands-down, he's a great player and would be a great representation of the award."

Robinson has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Texas Christian University 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.

Robinson joins recent Gatorade Utah Baseball Players of the Year Luke Anderson (2021-22, Snow Canyon High School), Fisher Ingersoll (2020-21, American Fork High School), Cooper Vest (2019-20, Dixie High School), and Cy Nielson (2018-19, Spanish Fork 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.