

**PEOPLES ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Ben Alekson** of **Peoples Academy** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Vermont Baseball Player of the Year**. Alekson is the first Gatorade Vermont Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Peoples Academy.

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 Alekson as Vermont’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, Alekson 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-3, 190-pound senior right handed pitcher and infielder compiled a 6-1 record with a 1.36 ERA to lead the Wolves to a 13-2 record entering Vermont’s Division III state tournament. Alekson struck out 88 batters in 36 innings while surrendering just five walks, throwing a five-inning perfect game and a pair of five-inning no-hitters. He also hit .769 with four homers, posting a 2.34 OPS. Alekson entered the season as a two-time state champion and was named the Preseason Best Player in Vermont by MaxPreps. He was also named a 2023 Perfect Game Preseason All-American Honorable Mention.

Also a four-year member of Stowe High’s varsity alpine ski team and a member of both schools’ chorus and concert band, Alekson has volunteered locally with the Stowe Little League and is a member of the National Honor Society. “Ben is a great choice,” said Spaulding High School coach Dan Kniry. “He’s a high character young man ... In terms of players in Vermont that are truly capable of playing Division I baseball, Alekson is the most obvious choice. He’s had an amazing career.”

Alekson has maintained a 4.7 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Fairfield 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.

Alekson joins recent Gatorade Vermont Baseball Players of the Year Tanner Wolpert (2021-22, Rice Memorial High School), Owen Kellington (2020-21, U-32 Middle & High School), Jack Ambrosino (2019-20, South Burlington High School), and Ian Parent (2018-19, Champlain Valley Union 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.