

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Bjorn Johnson** of **Lincoln High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year**. Johnson is the first Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Johnson as Washington'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, Johnson 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-1, 185-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Lynx to a 24-4 record and the Class 3A state championship this past season. After being closed since 1987, Lincoln High reopened in 2019 with a baseball roster of all freshmen, including Johnson, a four-year captain. Johnson compiled an 8-1 record with a 0.83 earned run average on the mound, striking out 105 in 67.1 innings while allowing just 13 walks. A three-time Seattle Times All-Metro selection, he batted .348 with five doubles, 20 runs scored, 27 RBI and a .522 slugging percentage.

Johnson has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach. "Bjorn has shut us down three years in a row now," said Chris Moedritzer, head coach of Garfield High. "His bat has improved over the last couple years so that he is one of the top hitters in the league, too. I am ready for that dude to move on to college baseball."

Johnson has maintained a 3.30 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Auburn 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Washington Baseball Players of the Year J.R. Ritchie (2021-22 & 2020-21, Bainbridge High School), Malakhi Knight (2019-20, Marysville Getchell High School), and Corbin Carroll (2018-19, Lakeside 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).

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