

**MORGANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Ryan Fluharty** of **Morgantown High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year**. Fluharty is the first Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Morgantown 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 Fluharty as West Virginia'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, Fluharty 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, 190-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher led the Mohigans to a 24-8 record and the regional finals this past season. Fluharty batted .442 with six home runs, 45 RBI, 42 runs scored and 13 stolen bases. He also went 2-1 with four saves and a 0.78 ERA on the mound. A First Team All-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference selection, he was also named a Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason All-Atlantic Region Honorable Mention.

Fluharty has volunteered locally on behalf of Operation Christmas Child and youth baseball programs. He's also donated his time assisting the elderly in his community. "I've been really impressed with Ryan Fluharty," said Mark Cisar, John Marshall High head coach. "He swings the bat really well, he's made some unbelievable plays in the field and he's not afraid to come right at you when he's on the mound. He's an excellent all-around baseball player."

Fluharty has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina Upstate 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.

Fluharty joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Players of the Year Atticus Goodson (2021-22, Independence High School), Cullen Horowicz (2020-21, Jefferson High School), Austin Dearing (2019-20, Hurricane High School), and Chase DeLauter (2018-19, Hedgesville 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.