

**SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 3, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Coen Niclai** of **Service High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year**. Niclai is the second Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Service High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Niclai as Alaska’s best high school baseball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Gary Sheffield (1985-86, Hillsborough High School, Fla.), Alex Rodriguez (1992-93, Westminster Christian School, Fla.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Max Clark (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Franklin Community High School, Ind.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-2, 213-pound senior catcher had led the Cougars to a 19-0-1 record and the Cook Inlet Conference championship. The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Niclai batted .455 with a 1.379 OPS through 20 games. He also gunned down five of 13 would-be base-stealers. Ranked as the nation’s No. 248 prospect in the Class of 2024 by Perfect Game, he earned an invite to the 2024 MLB Draft Scouting Combine.

A member of Service’s Ignite Peer Mentoring program, Niclai has volunteered locally as a youth baseball umpire and coach. He has also assisted with peer teaching in the special education classroom at Service High School. “Coen dominates behind the plate and commands the defense,” said Chad Stolp, head coach at West Anchorage High School. “He’s also the force at the plate.”

Niclai has maintained a 3.58 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Two-time winner Niclai joins recent Gatorade Alaska Baseball Players of the Year Curtis Hebert (2021-22, South Anchorage High School), Dylan Maltby (2020-21, South Anchorage High School) and Leland Wilson (2019-20, West Anchorage High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

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 X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

###