

**BLACKFOOT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IDAHO BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 3, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Dax Whitney** of **Blackfoot High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year**. Whitney is the first Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blackfoot 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 Whitney as Idaho'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.).

The 6-foot-5, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop led the Broncos to a 24-6 record and a third place finish in the Class 4A state tournament this past season. Whitney compiled a 10-0 record on the mound with a 0.27 ERA, surrendering just 10 hits in 52.2 innings pitched while striking out 130 batters. He also batted .483 with four home runs, 43 RBI and posted a 1.344 OPS. The nation's No. 67 prospect in the Class of 2024 by Prep Baseball Report, he threw a five-inning perfect game on April 18 against Idaho Falls and another five-inning no-hitter against Hillcrest on May 3.

Whitney has volunteered locally on behalf of church service projects since he was 12 years old. He has also donated his time to a food pantry and as a youth baseball instructor. "Dax can flat out play and I was impressed with his growth and maturity from last year to this year as an all-around young man," said Brett Taylor, head coach at Skyline High School. "His ability to pitch would carry him at any classification level, and his ability to hit and hit for power translates as well."

Whitney has maintained a 3.8 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Oregon State 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.

Whitney joins recent Gatorade Idaho Baseball Players of the Year Robert Orloski (2022-23, Middleton High School), Merit Jones (2021-22, Idaho Falls High School), Jaxon Sorenson (2020-21, Idaho Falls High School) and Magnum Hofstetter (2019-20, Twin Falls 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](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 X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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