

**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 **William Schmidt** of **Catholic High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Player of the Year**. Schmidt is the second Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Catholic 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 Schmidt as Louisiana'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-4, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Bears to a 38-2 record and the Division I state title this past season. Schmidt compiled a 9-0 record on the mound with a 0.44 ERA and 102 strikeouts against just 17 walks in 63.2 innings of work, holding opposing hitters to a .091 average. A 2023 Baseball Factory All-American Game selection and the nation's sixth-ranked player in the Class of 2024 by Perfect Game, he also batted .292 at the plate with a home run and 16 RBI.

Schmidt has volunteered locally on behalf of the Miracle League of Louisiana and the Williamsburg Senior Living Community in addition to serving as a youth baseball coach. "William Schmidt is a once-in-a-career type of talent," said Brad Bass, head coach at Catholic High School. "Watching him mature over the past four years has been a joy. He's a great player and teammate and most importantly, a wonderful young man."

Schmidt has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Louisiana State University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in July's Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

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.

Schmidt joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Players of the Year Jake Brown (2022-23, Sulphur High School), Gavin Guidry (2021-22, Barbe High School), Jack Walker (2020-21, Barbe High School) and Brody Drost (2019-20, Barbe 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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