

**BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Cayde Stajcar** of **Butte High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Montana Baseball Player of the Year**. Stajcar is the first Gatorade Montana Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Butte 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 Stajcar as Montana'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-2, 195-pound sophomore shortstop and right-handed pitcher led the Bulldogs (12-8) to the third place consolation game at the state championships this past season, batting .561 and scoring 37 runs while also driving home 18, stealing 10 bases and compiling an OPS of 1.425. In four innings on the mound, Stajcar fanned eight hitters and picked up a win. A two-time All-State selection, he saved his best for the postseason when he hit .615 with four extra-base hits, six RBI, nine runs, three steals and a 1.819 OPS in three games.

Stajcar has volunteered locally as an official for the East Middle School Unified basketball program for student-athletes with special needs. A participant in Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, he has also donated his time on behalf of Action, Inc. in addition to umpiring youth baseball and softball games. "Cayde is a kid you hate to coach against because of his amazing skill, but he's impossible not to like because he's a great young man," said Rich O'Brien, head coach of Butte Central Catholic High School. "His defense is phenomenal. His speed gives him range that players would kill for and he's got an arm that can set the ball on fire out of his hand. His defense is outshined only by his bat. He can flat out hit the ball. Pitchers from all over the state know they can't miss a spot when he's up, but even if they put the ball where they want it could be, and likely will be, barreled up."

Stajcar has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school 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.

Stajcar is the first Gatorade Montana Baseball Player of the Year.

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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