

**PALO VERDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Drew Kaplan** of **Palo Verde High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Nevada Baseball Player of the Year**. Kaplan is the first Gatorade Nevada Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Palo Verde 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 Kaplan as Nevada'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-1, 190-pound senior third baseman and right-handed pitcher led the Panthers to a 28-11 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. A 2024 First Team All-State selection, Kaplan batted .483 with seven home runs, 43 RBI and 43 runs, compiling a .574 on-base percentage and an OPS of 1.362. He was at his best when the pressure was greatest, mashing out a .565 batting average during the postseason along with a home run and nine RBI while reaching base in better than 60 percent of his plate appearances.

Kaplan has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and as a youth baseball instructor. "Drew Kaplan has been a coach's dream this year with his display of character, sportsmanship, determination, dedication and leadership for our team," said Dustin Romero, head coach at Palo Verde High School. "The intensity that he brought to the ballpark every single day was beyond measurable. There is no way we would have won a state championship without him."

Kaplan has maintained a 4.28 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the College of Southern Nevada 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.

Kaplan joins recent Gatorade Nevada Baseball Players of the Year Easton Shelton (2022-23, Bishop Gorman High School), Robby Snelling (2021-22, McQueen High School), Tyler Whitaker (2020-21, Bishop Gorman High School) and Carson Wells (2019-20, Bishop Gorman 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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