

**ROY C. KETCHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Owen Paino** of **Roy C. Ketcham High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year**. Paino is the first Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roy C. Ketcham 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 Paino as New York’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-3, 205-pound senior shortstop had led the Storm (20-3) to the Class AAA tournament this season, batting .532 with 28 RBI, 37 runs, 22 stolen bases through 23 games. Paino compiled a stellar .722 on-base percentage, and hit four home runs entering the postseason. Ranked as the nation’s No. 20 prospect in the Class of 2024, he was named the 2024 Section 1 Player of the Year and was a 2023 Perfect Game All-American Game selection.

A member of the National Honor Society, Paino has volunteered locally on behalf of a Veterans Affairs Medical Center and as a youth baseball coach. “I couldn’t have been more impressed with Owen Paino as a player,” said Claude Balliet, head coach of New Rochelle High School. “He’s an incredible defensive shortstop with legit gap-to-gap power from the left side. What impressed me most about him was his on-field demeanor and leadership. He truly plays the game the right way.”

Paino has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Mississippi 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.

Paino joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Samuel Stafura (2022-23, Walter Panas High School), Mike Kennedy (2021-22, Troy High School), Casey Saucke (2020-21, Greece Athena High School) and Jason Savacool (2019-20, Charles W. Baker 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.

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