## MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 3, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Gio Rojas of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Rojas as Florida's best high school baseball player, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Gary Sheffield (1985-86, Hillsborough High School, Florida), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Konnor Griffin (2023-24, Jackson Preparatory School, Mississippi).

The 6-foot-2, 180-pound junior left-handed pitcher and designated hitter led the Eagles (31-2) to the Class 7A state championship this past season. Rojas compiled a 12-0 record with a 0.72 ERA on the mound, striking out 120 batters against just 16 walks in 68 innings pitched. Ranked as the nation's No. 5 prospect in the Class of 2026 by Prep Baseball and a 2025 Baseball America Preseason High School First Team Underclass All-American, he also batted .375 with 32 RBI, 24 runs scored and a 1.038 OPS at the plate.

A counselor at various youth camps, Rojas has volunteered locally on behalf of the Luzardo and Welker Baseball Clinic and the Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation, helping to raise funds for children and families battling cancer. "We played one of the toughest schedules in the state and Gio Rojas was by far the best arm we saw all year," said Brian Campbell, head coach at North Broward Preparatory School. "He has a great mound presence, pitches with a chip on his shoulder and his stuff is electric as well. He has a tremendously bright future ahead of him."

Rojas has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Miami beginning in the fall of 2026.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.