JEFFERSON CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MISSOURI BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 3, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Jordan Martin of Jefferson City High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Missouri 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 Martin as Missouri'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).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-6, 220-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Jays (22-4) to the Class 5 state postseason. Martin compiled a 5-1 record on the mound with a 1.06 ERA and 51 strikeouts in 51 innings pitched. The state's No. 1 ranked prospect in the Class of 2025 by Perfect Game and Prep Baseball and a two-time Prep Baseball All-American Game invitee, he also batted .419 this spring with 43 runs scored, 28 RBI and a 1.098 OPS while striking out only four times in 109 plate appearances.

A founding member of his school's "We Are All Jays" club to promote inclusivity, Martin has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth baseball coach. "On the baseball field, Jordan Martin is fully committed to perfecting his craft," said Kansas City Royals amateur scout Brett Bailey. "His demeanor on the field and in the dugout shows a level of competitiveness and maturity well beyond his years. If he continues on this path, I see him playing at the highest level in the future. Most importantly, his work ethic and dedication to being a great teammate are what truly set him up for success."

Martin has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball at the University of Arkansas this fall but is projected as an early round selection in July's Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

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 studentathletes, 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>.