HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 2, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Cash Lawrence of Hamilton High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Montana 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 Lawrence as Montana'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, 170-pound junior right-handed pitcher and third baseman led Hamilton to a 17-4 record and the third- place game of the state tournament this past season. Lawrence went 7-0 on the mound with a 1.11 ERA and 60 strikeouts in 44 innings. Opponents batted just .120 against him and he recorded a 0.750 WHIP. A 2024 Academic All-State selection, he posted a one-hit, shutout win in a postseason start, striking out nine and walking two.

Lawrence has volunteered locally as part of the Hamilton Broncs Street Cleanup initiative in addition to donating his time as a youth baseball umpire and as an instructor at youth baseball camps. "Cash is very passionate about the game and has an extraordinary work ethic," said Hamilton High School head coach Trevor Paro. "He's the kind of player every team wants. His commitment is unmatched, he's a natural leader and his effort is contagious. He's a big reason Hamilton won the sportsmanship award in 2024."

Lawrence has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

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>.