LA SALLE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Brady Collins of La Salle Academy is the 2024-25 Gatorade Rhode Island 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 Collins as Rhode Island'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 5-foot-11, 190-pound sophomore catcher had led the Rams to a 15-5 record and the No. 4 seed in the Division I state tournament this season. Collins entered the postseason batting .400 with five home runs, 18 RBIs, 10 runs scored and a slugging percentage of .822. He also threw out 11 of 17 would-be base stealers through 20 games.

Collins has volunteered locally tutoring middle school students who need help in various subjects. He has also donated his time as a coach for his younger brother's baseball team. "Collins is the real deal," said Rob Malo, head coach at Cranston High School West. "He's probably the one player we feared when he was at the plate. The ball jumps off his bat."

Collins has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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>.