## ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 2, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Rex Hauser of St. Johnsbury Academy is the 2024-25 Gatorade Vermont 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 Hauser as Vermont'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, 205-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Hilltoppers to a 12-3 record and a berth in the upcoming Division I state tournament. Hauser compiled a 5-1 record on the mound with a 0.737 ERA, striking out 59 batters and walking just seven in 38 innings through 15 games. He also batted .538 with four home runs, 17 RBI and 17 runs scored, posting a .679 on-base percentage, 1.051 slugging percentage and 1.730 OPS. A two-sport standout, Hauser was named the 2024 Caledonian Record Player of the Year in baseball and is the reigning Vermont Boys Basketball Gatorade Player of the Year. He's ranked as the No. 4 player in Vermont's Class of 2025 by Perfect Game.

Hauser has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society. He has also donated his time with a fundraiser to benefit a local cancer center. "He's been pretty exceptional at the plate, and when he's not pitching, he plays a great shortstop," said St. Johnsbury Academy head coach Chris Kendall. "On the mound, his velocity is up there. He sits 86-87 mph and has been up to 89 mph. He's throwing a lot harder this year."

Hauser has maintained a 97.44 weighted average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Maine 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 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>.