



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **Nebraska American Legion Selects Baseball Player of the Year**

(Lincoln) August 13, 2018 – The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, selected Braiden Ruffin of North Platte as the 2018 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player of the Year.

Each year, thousands of Nebraska's youth participate in American Legion Baseball across the state. One young man is then chosen as the Nebraska Player of Year and is forwarded on to National to be considered for the George W. Rulon National Player of the Year.

Ruffin plays for the North Platte First Nationals team. He has shown extensive dedication to academics, baseball, and to his community. While maintaining a 4.0 GPA and being first in his class, Ruffin participated in varsity football and wrestling, coached and refereed youth sports, belonged to National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and was Vice President of his class. He helped with blood drives and visited the local retirement home residents. Ruffin received All-State Academic honors two years and Cornhusker League All-Star honors two years.

Ruffin will attend Cochise Junior College in Arizona working towards a degree in Exercise Science and will continue to play baseball there. His dream is to own his own training facility and train athletes on proper strength and conditioning. Ruffin is the son of Greg and Jamie Hernandez of North Platte.

Since its inception in 1919, The American Legion has been a key advocate for veterans' benefits, patriotic American values, instilling values in young people through numerous programs, and a strong nation defense with focus on quality-of-life issues for those serving in today's armed forces.

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