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**TULLAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 27, 2014) — — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Justus Sheffield of Tullahoma High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year. Sheffield is the second Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tullahoma High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Sheffield as Tennessee's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Sheffield joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Roy Halladay (1994-95, Arvada West HS, Colo.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman HS, Tenn.), Chipper Jones (1989-90, Bolles School, Fla.), Derek Lee (1992-93, El Camino HS, Calif.) and John Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 5-foot-11, 190-pound senior left-handed pitcher compiled a 10-0 record with a 0.34 ERA and 131 strikeouts in 61.2 innings this past season, leading the Wildcats (24-15) to the sectional round of the Class AAA state tournament. A First Team All-American as named by Perfect Game USA, Sheffield, also a center fielder, batted .405 with three home runs, 13 doubles, 16 RBI and 22 runs scored. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association, he recorded a .478 on-base percentage and .620 slugging percentage.

Sheffield has maintained an A average in the classroom. An office aide at his school's Counseling Center and a Tullahoma Homecoming King, he has donated his time locally as a student-teacher at Bel-Aire Elementary School in addition to volunteering as a youth baseball instructor.

"He is a once-in-a-decade player who elevates the players around him to another level," said Travis Tate, head coach of rival Lincoln County High. "I truly believe what separates him—other than his ability—is his competitive nature. He competes as well as any kid I have ever coached against."

Sheffield has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in next month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Sheffield joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Players of the Year Wil Crowe (2012-13, Pigeon Forge High School), Jonathan King (2011-12, Riverdale High School), Daniel Norris (2010 - 11, Science Hill High School), Ethan Bennett (2009-10, Farragut), Curt Powell (2008-09, Farragut), Sonny Gray (2007-08, Smyrna), and Taylor Hill (2006-2007, Mt. Juliet) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit [www.gatorade.com/poy](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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