JESUIT COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL OF DALLAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® TEXAS BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (May 24, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kyle Muller of Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas as its 2015-16 Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year. Muller is the second Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas.

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 Muller as Texas's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Muller 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 Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 6-foot-7, 245-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder has led the Rangers to a 31-7-2 record and the Class 6A regional semifinals, scheduled for May 26. At the time of his selection, Muller had posted an 8-1 record on the mound with a 0.49 ERA and 140 strikeouts in 74 innings. Offensively, he's compiled a .392 average with 15 home runs and 52 RBI through 40 games. A 2015 Under Armour All-American, he set a national high school record by striking out 33 consecutive hitters earlier this season.

Muller has maintained an 86.4 average in the classroom. A member of his school's Big Brother program, he has volunteered locally as part of an elementary school literacy-outreach initiative and participated in a school-sponsored, community-building service mission.

"Kyle Muller is one of the best competitors that I've ever come across in my nine years of coaching," said Allen Somwang, head coach at Nimitz High. "The guy is a machine on the mound and you can tell that his presence makes his whole team better."

Muller has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Texas this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in June's Major League Baseball draft.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Muller joins recent Gatorade Texas Baseball Players of the Year Luken Baker (2014-15, Oak Ridge High School), Tyler Kolek (2013-14, Shepherd High School), Kohl Stewart (2012-13, St. Pius X High School), Courtney Hawkins (2011-12, Carroll High School), Josh Bell (2010-11, Jesuit College Preparatory School), Jameson Taillon (2009-10, The Woodlands High School), Shelby Miller (2008-09, Brownwood High School), Taylor Jungmann (2007-08, Georgetown High School), and Blake Beavan (2006-07, Irving High School) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.