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**WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 29, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jack Washburn of Webster High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Player of the Year. Washburn is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Webster 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 Washburn as Wisconsin's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Washburn joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.), Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Wash.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman High School, Tenn.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas), Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-2, 190-pound junior right-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Tigers to a 20-2 record at the time of his selection. Washburn owned a 6-0 record on the mound with one save and a 0.23 earned run average, striking out 58 batters in 30 innings pitched. At the plate, Washburn had posted a .464 batting average with nine home runs, 37 runs, 47 runs batted in and 12 steals thru 22 games. In a 22-2 win over the Luck-Frederic co-op team on May 18, he hit four home runs and drove in 11 runs.

Washburn, whose father and coach, Jarrod, won a World Series with the Los Angeles Angels in 2002, has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects and as a youth baseball coach. He has also donated his time with an elementary school literacy-outreach program.

"Jack is the best high school pitcher I have ever seen," said Jovin Kroll, head coach of Northwestern High. "He brings it. His fastball has great pop and his curveball is a nightmare. I'd rank him as the last player in the state I'd want to play against."

Washburn has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Oregon State University beginning in the fall of 2019.

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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Washburn joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Players of the Year Ben Dragani (2016-17, Catholic Memorial High School), Gavin Lux (2015-16, Indian Trail High School), Jack Eagan (2014-15, Wautoma High School), Jeren Kendall (2013-14, Holmen High School), Scott Schreiber (2012-13, Kimberly High School), Kyle Cody (2011-12, McDonell Central Catholic High School), Sam Mahar (2010-11, Tremper High School), Bobby Juan (2009-10, Central), Brad Schreiber (2008-09, Kimberly), Phil Schreiber (2007-08, Kaukauna), and Nick Rice (2006-07, Tremper) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jack will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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