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**DESERT RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARIZONA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 28, 2013) — In its 28<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 Riley Unroe of Desert Ridge High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arizona Baseball Player of the Year. Unroe is the third Gatorade Arizona Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Desert Ridge 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 Unroe as Arizona's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Unroe 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.), Derrek Lee (1992-93, El Camino HS, Calif.) and John Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 6-foot, 185-pound senior shortstop batted .553 with 10 home runs and 59 RBI this past season, leading the Jaguars (26-6) to the second round of the Division I state tournament. A returning Division I Honorable Mention All-State selection as named by The Arizona Republic, Unroe scored 54 runs and collected 25 stolen bases, 14 doubles and five triples to go with a .636 on-base percentage and 1.128 slugging percentage. Also a right-handed pitcher, Unroe owned a 2-1 record with four saves, a 2.63 ERA and 20 strikeouts in 13.1 innings-pitched. He played for the 2011 USA Baseball 16U National Team.

Unroe has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of The Soul Project, Sunshine Acres Children's Home, André House of Hospitality and The Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family campaign.

"The kid is one of the best players I've ever coached against. Period," said Shane Hilstrom, head coach of rival Perry High. "He's scary good and does everything very well. If he has a weakness, I sure don't know what it would be."

Unroe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Southern California 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.

Unroe joins recent Gatorade Arizona Baseball Players of the Year Mitch Nay (2011-12, Hamilton High School), Kevin Cron (2010 - 11, Mountain Pointe High School), Taylor Kaczmarek (2009-10, Desert Ridge), Jake Barrett (2008-09 Desert Ridge), Jaff Decker (2007-08, Sunrise Mountain), and Tim Alderson (2006-2007, Horizon) 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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