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**KERMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 28, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Carlos Salazar of Kerman High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year. Salazar is the first Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kerman 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 Salazar as California's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Salazar 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-1, 205-pound senior right-handed pitcher, infielder and outfielder posted a 10-2 record, a 0.09 ERA and 147 strikeouts in 44.1 innings this past season, leading the Lions (26-5) to the Division IV CIF Central Section semifinals. A 2013 Perfect Game USA Preseason All-American selection, he also batted .430 with three home runs, 29 RBI and a .630 slugging percentage.

Salazar has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and as a youth baseball instructor and umpire.

"Carlos Salazar is the best power pitcher that I have competed against in over 30 years of coaching," said James Patrick, head coach at Clovis High. "He is a tough competitor and he is also a true sportsman. He brings out the best in his teammates."

Salazar has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Fresno State 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.

Salazar joins recent Gatorade California Baseball Players of the Year Ty Moore (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Robert Stephenson (2010 - 11, Alhambra High School), Dylan Covey (2009-10, Maranatha), Matt Hobgood (2008-09 Norco), Kyle Skipworth (2007-08, Patriot), and Josh Vitters (2006-2007, Cypress) 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.

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