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**CHERRY CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Griffin Jax of Cherry Creek High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year. Jax is the first Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cherry Creek 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 Jax as Colorado's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Jax 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-5, 215-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Bruins to a 21-3 record and a berth in the Class 5A state semifinals against ThunderRidge High, scheduled for May 24. Jax owned a 7-1 record with a 1.74 ERA and 57 strikeouts against just two walks in 40.1 innings-pitched entering the postseason round of four. A returning First Team All-Colorado selection as named by The Denver Post, Jax batted .400 with six home runs and 27 RBI, recording a .512 on-base percentage and .862 slugging percentage through 24 games. He helped lead Cherry Creek to the 2012 Class 5A state championship as a junior.

Jax has maintained a 3.85 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's physics club and the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and on behalf of the Humane Society, Ronald McDonald House Charities and the Food Bank of the Rockies.

"He is a fantastic player and one of the top hitters—if not the top hitter—in our state," said Tory Humphrey, head coach of rival Eaglecrest High. "Also, he is dominant on the mound, purely dominant. And what I like more than that about him is he carries himself with class on the field and also treats opponents with respect. He is a quality kid."

Jax will attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall, where he will play baseball.

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.

Jax joins recent Gatorade Colorado Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Warner (2011-12, Pine Creek High School), Greg Bird (2010 - 11, Grandview High School), Marco Gonzales (2009-10, Rocky Mountain), Bryan Peters (2008-09 Rocky Mountain), Andy Burns (2007-08, Rocky Mountain), and Matt Presley (2006-2007, Cheyenne Mountain) 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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