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**MASUK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Thomas Milone of Masuk High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year. Milone is the second Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Masuk 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 Milone as Connecticut's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Milone 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, 190-pound senior center fielder has led the Panthers to an 11-11 record and a berth in the upcoming Class L state tournament. Milone owned a .463 batting average with a .581 on-base percentage, three home runs, 26 runs scored and 28 stolen bases entering the postseason. A two-time All-State honoree, he was a Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason High School Second Team All-America selection.

Milone has maintained a 3.24 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports camps and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

"Milone is just an amazing talent," said Brian Hourigan, head coach at Oxford High. "He's a legit five-tool guy. He gets a good read on the ball in center field and he has great, great speed. You almost think that any ball in the air is going to be caught."

Masuk has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut this fall.

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.

Milone joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Players of the Year Bryan Daniello (2011-12, Brien McMahon High School), Sal Romano (2010 - 11, Southington High School), Colin O'Keefe (2009-10, Waterford), Matt Carasiti (2008-09 Berlin), Jason Esposito (2007-08, Amity), and Matt Harvey (2006-2007, Fitch) 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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