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**OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Nicholas Gordon of Olympia High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year. Gordon is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olympia 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 Gordon as Florida's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Gordon 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-2, 165-pound junior shortstop batted .505 with two home runs and 30 RBI this past season, leading the Titans (22-8) to the Class 8A regional finals. A 2013 Under Armour All-American Game selection, Gordon scored 23 runs and collected 15 doubles, 12 stolen bases and six triples. Also a right-handed pitcher, Gordon owned a 5-1 record with five saves, a 0.78 ERA and 44 strikeouts in 35.2 innings-pitched. He participated in the 2012 USA Baseball 18U National Team Trials this past summer.

Gordon has maintained a 3.14 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a teacher's assistant and youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Batting For Success anti-bullying campaign and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"I actually played and graduated with 2001-02 Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year Zack Greinke, and I believe that Nick Gordon has the same qualities that Greinke had during his high school career athletically and in terms of character," said Eric Lassiter, head coach of rival Apopka High. "We played Olympia three times this year, and not only was Gordon the best player on the field in all categories that we faced him—pitching, defensively and offensively—but was very humble and gracious after the games. It is just unbelievable to watch."

Gordon has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Florida State University beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Gordon joins recent Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Lance McCullers, Jr. (2011-12, Jesuit High School), Jose Fernandez (2010 - 11, Alonso High School), Nick Castellanos (2009-10, Archbishop McCarthy), Bobby Borcherding (2008-09 Bishop Verot Catholic), Eric Hosmer (2007-08, American Heritage School), and Michael Main (2006-2007, DeLand) 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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