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**COEUR D'ALENE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Levi Pereira of Coeur d'Alene High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year. Pereira is the second Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Coeur d'Alene 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 Pereira as Idaho's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Pereira 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, 195-pound senior catcher batted .559 with six home runs, 43 RBI, 38 runs scored, 18 doubles and a 1.024 slugging percentage, leading the Vikings (22-6) to the Class 5A state final this past season. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Pereira batted .750 (15-for-20) with five doubles, four home runs and 12 RBI in five state tournament games.

Pereira has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and a homeless shelter in addition to serving as an elected member of his school's student council.

"Levi Pereira's ability to perform under pressure is spectacular," said Coeur d'Alene High head coach Nick Rook. "His teammates consistently look to him for leadership in crucial situations. His intangibles as a player are off the charts and his savvy for the game is uncoachable. I would rate his overall skills among the top five percent of the players I have coached at both the high school and collegiate levels."

Pereira has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Gonzaga University 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.

Pereira joins recent Gatorade Idaho Baseball Players of the Year Bryce Feist (2011-12, Rocky Mountain High School), Cy Sneed (2010 - 11, Twin Falls High School), Devon Austin (2009-10, Coeur d'Alene), Jacob Coats (2008-09 Twin Falls), Sean McDonald (2007-08, Boise), and Josh Osich (2006-2007, Bishop Kelly) 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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