

Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**CENTRAL HARDIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Drew Harrington of Central Hardin High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year. Harrington is the first Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Hardin 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 Harrington as Kentucky's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Harrington 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, 220-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman has led the Bruins to a 26-4 record and a berth in the state tournament, scheduled to begin June 4. At the time of his selection, Combs owned a 7-0 record with a save, a 0.28 ERA and 89 strikeouts in 50 innings. A 2012 First Team All-State selection, he also batted .444 with two home runs, 33 RBI and 18 runs through 30 games.

Harrington has maintained a 3.59 in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, as part of an elementary education literacy outreach program and as a youth baseball coach and umpire.

"Drew Harrington has been a pleasure to coach the last four years," said Central Hardin head coach Todd Thompson. "He has a great work ethic and a true passion for the game."

Harrington has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Louisville.

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.

Harrington joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Players of the Year Ryne Combs (2011-12, Bryan Station High School), Zach Lucas (2010 - 11, Butler Traditional High School), Trevor Gott (2009-10, Tates Creek), Luke Maile (2008-09 Covington Catholic), Robbie Ross (2007-08, Lexington Christian Academy), and Ben Revere (2006-2007, Lexington Catholic) 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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