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**LUTCHER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Jared Poche of Lutchter High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Player of the Year. Poche is the first Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lutchter 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 Poche as Louisiana's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Poche 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-1, 195-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Buccaneers (30-4) to the Class 4A state championship this past season. Poche posted an 11-0 record, a 0.65 ERA and 123 strikeouts in 70 innings. The 2013 District MVP and a Louisiana Mr. Baseball finalist, he tossed a one-hit, complete game shutout with 11 strikeouts in a 4-0 win over St. Thomas More in the state title clincher. Offensively, he batted .389 with six home runs, 36 RBI, 34 runs scored and a .716 slugging percentage.

Poche has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach and umpire and on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Jared Poche is a tremendous student-athlete," said Lutchter head coach Davey Clement. "Even though he has a scholarship to one of the best programs in the nation, he doesn't act like it. He is a very humble person and enjoys helping players younger than him."

Poche has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Louisiana State University this fall but is projected as an early round selection in next month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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.

Poche joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Players of the Year Gavin Cecchini (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, Barbe High School), Bronson Gillam (2009-10, Evangel Christian Academy), Zachary Von Rosenberg (2008-09 Zachary), Austin Nola (2007-08, Catholic), and Carmen Angelini (2006-2007, Barbe) 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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