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**LYNN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Ben Bowden of Lynn English High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year. Bowden is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lynn English 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 Bowden as Massachusetts's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Bowden 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-4, 220-pound senior left-handed pitcher posted a 4-2 record with a 0.67 ERA on the mound for the Bulldogs (8-10) in the regular season. Bowden also had a save and has struck out 84 batters in 52 innings pitched, scattering 29 hits and 10 walks. At the plate, he owned a .459 on-base percentage and 13 RBI. A member of the Boston Herald All-Scholastic Team, he was a Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason High School First Team All-Northeast Region selection.

Bowden has maintained a B average in the classroom. A mentor for eighth-grade students, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a community soup kitchen.

"When Bowden hits his spots, he's unhittable," said Jason Tarasuik, head coach at Marblehead High. "He has a dominating fastball, he changes speeds and hits his locations. He has a great presence on the mound."

Bowden has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt 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.

Bowden joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Players of the Year Rhett Wiseman (2011-12, Buckingham Browne & Nichols), John Gorman (2010 - 11, Catholic Memorial School), Kevin Ziomek (2009-10, Amherst Regional), Kyle McKenzie (2008-09 Thayer Academy), Scott Weismann (2007-08, Acton-Boxborough), and Jack McGearry (2006-2007, Roxbury Latin School) 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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