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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**NORTHWEST RANKIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Reid Humphreys of Northwest Rankin High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year. Humphreys is the first Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Northwest Rankin 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 Humphreys as Mississippi's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Humphreys 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, 190-pound senior second baseman batted .389 with 11 home runs, 32 RBI, 43 runs scored, 11 stolen bases and an .874 slugging percentage, leading the Cougars (28-7) to the Class 6A quarterfinals this past season. A 2013 Clarion-Ledger Dandy Dozen selection, Humphreys is the top-ranked player in the state as rated by Perfect Game USA.

Humphreys has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach.

"Reid Humphreys is an outstanding player," said Northwest Rankin High head coach Jeff McClaskey. "He's a big, strong kid and really a special talent on the field. He has worked extremely hard for all that he has accomplished."

Humphreys has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Mississippi State 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.

Humphreys joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Players of the Year Anthony Alford (2011-12, Petal High School), Mason Robbins (2010 - 11, George County High School), Brayden Jones (2009-10, Madison Central), Darren Farmer (2008-09 West Lauderdale), Rashun Dixon (2007-08, Terry), and Paxton Pace (2006-2007, West Lauderdale) 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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