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**NORRIS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Jakson Reetz of Norris High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year. Reetz is the first Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Norris 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 Reetz as Nebraska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Reetz 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 junior catcher led the Titans to a 26-2 record and the program's first ever Class B state championship this past season. In the 3-2, title-clinching victory against Lincoln Pius X High, Reetz accounted for all three runs offensively and pitched the final two innings of scoreless relief for the save. A returning First Team Super-State selection as named by the Lincoln Journal Star, he batted .464 with five home runs and 49 RBI. Reetz scored 34 runs and collected 22 walks, 14 doubles and 13 stolen bases. Behind the plate, Reetz managed a pitching staff that posted a 0.69 ERA. Also a right-handed pitcher, he owned a 2-0 record with two saves, a 0.00 ERA and 16 strikeouts in 18.1 innings-pitched.

Also a football and basketball standout, Reetz has maintained a 4.74 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Norris principal's advisory committee, he has donated his time as a youth athletic instructor in addition to volunteering locally on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives, including an anti-drug campaign, a youth literacy-outreach initiative and The Salvation Army.

"He's a great player," said Bill Bruhn, head coach of rival Beatrice High. "His arm strength is outstanding, and his bat is awesome as well. He's very unselfish and works very hard. He's someone you would love to have on your team."

Reetz has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Reetz joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Nate Griep (2011-12, Millard West High School), Casey Gillaspie (2010 - 11, Millard North High School), Logan Ehlers (2009-10 & 2008-09, Nebraska City), Kash Kalkowski (2007-08, Grand Island Senior), and Matt Freeman (2006-2007, Elkhorn) 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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