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**CLARENCE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Mark Armstrong of Clarence High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year. Armstrong is the first Gatorade New York Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Clarence 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 Armstrong as New York's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Armstrong 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-3, 205-pound senior right-handed pitcher had led the Red Devils to a 19-2 record and the Section VI Class AA playoffs at the time of his selection. Through 21 games, Armstrong owned an 8-0 record with a 0.55 ERA on the mound. At the plate, he was batting .417 with five home runs and 25 RBI. He had posted 94 strikeouts in 51 innings pitched, scattering 21 hits and eight walks.

Armstrong has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports camps and Hasek's Heroes, which helps teach intellectually and physically challenged children how to skate and play hockey.

"Armstrong is a dominating pitcher," said Mike Adams, head coach at Webster Thomas High. "When you face him, you know there's a really good chance that you won't win. I think his fastball is clocked around 90 miles per hour, but he's got a really, really good breaking pitch too, and his control is amazing."

Armstrong has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh 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.

Armstrong joins recent Gatorade New York Baseball Players of the Year Alex Robinson (2011-12, Holy Trinity High School), Jonathan de Marte (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Lakeland High School), Marcus Stroman (2008-09 Patchogue-Medford), Philip Pohl (2007-08, Cooperstown), and Brian Dupra (2006-2007, Greece Athena) 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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