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**MADEIRA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Andrew Benintendi of Madeira High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year. Benintendi is the first Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Madeira 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 Benintendi as Ohio's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Benintendi 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 5-foot-10, 170-pound senior centerfielder batted .562 with 12 home runs, 60 runs scored, 55 RBI and 37 stolen bases this past season, leading the Mustangs (24-6) to the Division III district semifinals. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Benintendi finishes second in state history with 213 career base hits.

Benintendi has maintained a 3.3 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a Sunday School teacher and as a youth sports camp counselor.

"I have coached against Andrew Benintendi for the last four years and he is one of the best hitters I have ever seen," said Chris Fieher, head coach at Wyoming High. "He has unbelievably quick hands and seems to hit everything hard. To get more than 200 career hits in this day and age is incredible. He is a winner and a great competitor."

Benintendi has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Benintendi joins recent Gatorade Ohio Baseball Players of the Year Adam Schaly (2011-12, Ashland High School), Taylore Cherry (2010 - 11, Butler High School), David Whitehead (2009-10, Moeller), Tyler Skulina (2008-09 Walsh Jesuit), Ryan Curl (2007-08, St. Francis DeSales), and Derek Dietrich (2006-2007, St. Ignatius) 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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