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**BLACKHAWK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 28, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Brendan McKay of Blackhawk High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year. McKay is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blackhawk 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 McKay as Pennsylvania's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, McKay 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, 210-pound junior left-handed pitcher, outfielder and first baseman posted a 7-0 record, a 0.09 ERA, 103 strikeouts and just seven walks in 54 innings, leading the Cougars (11-7) Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League Class AAA quarterfinals this past season. A two-time first team All-State selection, McKay also batted .537 with a pair of home runs, seven RBI and an .829 slugging percentage.

McKay has maintained a 3.3 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's prom committee and Spirit Club, he has volunteered locally as a youth sports coach and on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Brendan McKay, in my professional opinion, is the most complete baseball player I have seen at the high school level," said Scott McGee, head coach at Ambridge Area High. "He's as dominant of a high school pitcher as you will find anywhere. He's been clocked at 88 MPH and throws all of his pitches for strikes. Offensively, he's a threat every time he steps into the box."

McKay will begin his senior year of high school 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.

McKay joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Players of the Year Kenny Koplove (2011-12, William Penn Charter School), Derek Fisher (2010 - 11, Cedar Crest High School), Sean Coyle (2009-10, Germantown Academy), Mike Lubanski (2008-09 Malvern Preparatory School), Zak Sinclair (2007-08, West Allegheny), and Devin Mesoraco (2006-2007, Punxsutawney) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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