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**PIGEON FORGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Wil Crowe of Pigeon Forge High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year. Crowe is the first Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pigeon Forge 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 Crowe as Tennessee's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Crowe 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, 225-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Tigers to a 38-2 record and a berth in the Class AA state championship series against Goodpasture High, scheduled to begin May 24. Crowe owned a 15-1 record with a 0.46 ERA and 172 strikeouts in 91 innings-pitched entering the state title series. Also a third baseman, Crowe batted .448 with 12 home runs, 24 extra-base hits, 50 runs scored and 52 RBI through 40 games. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association, he led the Knoxville Stars to the 2012 Continental Amateur Baseball Association 17U World Series championship this past summer, capturing tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Also a basketball standout, Crowe has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's National Beta Club chapter, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Young Life, Jeans for Teens, Lions Clubs International, Sevier County Food Ministries and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation.

"His playing credentials are as good as it gets," said Henry Lafollette, head coach of rival Gatlingsburg-Pittman High. "I also had the pleasure of coaching against him in basketball and saw how big of a heart he has as a competitor, overcoming the adversity of blowing his knee out in basketball, sitting out his junior year of baseball and still helping his teammates on the field. I just can't say enough about this young man and wish I had a team full of young men like him."

Crowe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Crowe joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Players of the Year Jonathan King (2011-12, Riverdale High School), Daniel Norris (2010 - 11, Science Hill High School), Ethan Bennett (2009-10, Farragut), Curt Powell (2008-09 Farragut), Sonny Gray (2007-08, Smyrna), and Taylor Hill (2006-2007, Mt. Juliet) 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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