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**GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Connor Jones of Great Bridge High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Virginia Baseball Player of the Year. Jones is the third Gatorade Virginia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Great Bridge 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 Jones as Virginia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Jones 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 led the Wildcats to a 19-2 record and a berth in the Class AAA regional quarterfinals, scheduled for May 27. Jones owned an 8-1 record with a 0.73 ERA and 65 strikeouts against just 12 walks in 48 innings-pitched entering the regional round of eight. Also an outfielder, Jones batted .296 with nine runs scored and six RBI. A 2012 WWBA World Championship All-Tournament selection, he was the winning pitcher in the 2011 Class AAA state championship game as a sophomore and the 2012 Under Armour All-America Game this past summer.

Jones has maintained a 3.62 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's student council, he has donated his time as an education intern at Great Bridge Intermediate School in addition to volunteering locally on behalf of Mayor's Youth Day.

"I have coached in the district for 29 years, and I believe the Player of the Year search should end with Connor Jones," said Steve West, head coach of rival Indian River High. "He has been as dominant a pitcher that has come through this area in a long time. That really is saying a lot."

Jones has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Virginia this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in next month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Virginia Baseball Players of the Year Nathan Kirby (2011-12, James River High School), Nick Thompson (2010 - 11, Western Branch High School), Kyle Crockett (2009-10, Poquoson), Ethan Carter (2008-09 Menchville), Austin Stadler (2007-08, James River), and Neil Ramirez (2006-2007, Kempsville) 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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