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**HERBERT HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST 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 Corey Bird of Herbert Hoover High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year. Bird is the second Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Herbert Hoover 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 Bird as West Virginia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Bird 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-1, 175-pound senior outfielder led the Huskies to a 28-3 record and a berth in the Class AA regional finals against Wayne High, scheduled for May 24. Bird batted .476 with 54 runs scored, 45 stolen bases and 20 RBI through 31 games. Also the returning Class AA First Team All-State captain as named by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association, Bird, a left-handed pitcher, owned a 4-0 record with one save, a 1.08 ERA and 45 strikeouts against just seven walks in 26 innings-pitched.

Bird has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church and as a youth baseball instructor and umpire.

"He's hard to beat," said Kenny Harper, head coach of rival Sissonville High. "We've played against him for four years, and he's a guy you have to keep off base. Once he's on base, he'll score. And if you hit it to center field, he'll run it down. As far as a ballplayer and an athlete, you can't get much better."

Bird has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Marshall University 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.

Bird joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Players of the Year Korey Dunbar (2011-12, Nitro High School), Tyler Payne (2010 - 11, Hurricane High School), J.R. Bradley (2009-10, Nitro), Corey Miller (2008-09 Cabell Midland), Chase Pickering (2007-08, Nitro), and Patrick Arnold (2006-2007, Huntington) 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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