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**ARDMORE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 27, 2014) — — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Cody Reed of Ardmore High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year. Reed is the first Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ardmore 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 Reed as Alabama's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Reed 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.), Derek Lee (1992-93, El Camino HS, Calif.) and John Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 6-foot-3, 250-pound senior left-handed pitcher compiled a 10-2 record with a 0.46 ERA and 226 strikeouts against just 17 walks in 92 innings this past season, leading the Tigers (27-11) to the Class 4A state championship series. The returning Class 4A Player of the Year as named by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, Reed tied a state record with 21 strikeouts over seven innings in a 3-0 victory against Elkmont on March 22. Also a first baseman, Reed batted .494 with six home runs, 10 doubles, 33 RBI and 40 runs scored. He recorded a .667 on-base percentage and .800 slugging percentage.

Reed has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, as a blood donor, as a mentor for Ardmore's incoming sixth-graders and as part of tornado cleanup efforts.

"Cody has a great passion for the game of baseball, but an even greater passion for being a great human being," said Ardmore head coach Andrew Smith. "He strives for perfection in everything that he does. He makes my job much easier, because I never have to question his work ethic. His desire has gotten him to where he is now. He is a great character kid and strives to do everything the right way."

Reed has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University 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.

Reed joins recent Gatorade Alabama Baseball Players of the Year Keegan Thompson (2012-13 & 2010 - 11, Cullman High School), Mikey White (2011-12, Spain Park High School), Daryl Norris (2009-10, Fairhope), Luke Bole (2008-09, Hartselle), Tyler Stovall (2007-08, Hokes Bluff), and Hunter Morris (2006-2007, Grissom) 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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