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**HARVARD-WESTLAKE SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Jack Flaherty of Harvard-Westlake School as its 2013-14 Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year. Flaherty is the first Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Harvard-Westlake 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 Flaherty as California's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Flaherty 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-4, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher, infielder and centerfielder led the Wolverines to a 21-6-1 record and a berth in the Division I CIF Southern Section state playoffs against John W. North, scheduled for May 23. At the time of his selection, Flaherty owned a 9-0 record with a 0.69 ERA and 115 strikeouts in 71 innings. The 2013 MaxPreps National High School Baseball Player of the Year, he also batted .311 with three home runs, 21 stolen bases, 20 runs scored, 17 RBI and a .459 on-base percentage through 28 games. A 2013 Perfect Game All-American, Flaherty has won 22 consecutive decisions dating back to his junior year.

Flaherty has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Ocean Park Community Center, the Children's Cancer Research fund and as a youth baseball coach.

Jack Flaherty is a man against boys," said Clemente Bonilla, head coach at Capo Valley High. "I felt he could compete in a minor league system right now in A-ball and win. He had great command of his fastball and secondary pitches and was very quick off the mound. He's an athletic kid who swings the bat well too."

Flaherty has signed with the University of North Carolina 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.

Flaherty joins recent Gatorade California Baseball Players of the Year Carlos Salazar (2012-13, Kerman High School), Ty Moore (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Robert Stephenson (2010 - 11, Alhambra High School), Dylan Covey (2009-10, Maranatha), Matt Hobgood (2008-09, Norco), Kyle Skipworth (2007-08, Patriot), and Josh Vitters (2006-2007, Cypress) 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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