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**BUNNELL HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Ronnie Rossomando of Bunnell High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year. Rossomando is the first Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bunnell 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 Rossomando as Connecticut's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Rossomando 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-5, 242-pound junior right-handed pitcher and first baseman has led the Bulldogs to a 16-4 record and a berth in the Class L state tournament. Entering the postseason, Rossomando owned a 5-1 record and a 1.65 ERA on the mound along with a .313 batting average and 17 RBI. He had 69 strikeouts in 42.1 innings pitched, surrendering just 22 hits and issuing 14 walks. Rossomando was a First Team All-Conference and First Team All-State selection as a sophomore.

Rossomando has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and his school's Unified Sports teams, for students with disabilities.

"Rossomando is a man amongst boys," said Jeff Rago, head coach at Joel Barlow High. "He's just at a different level than other high school pitchers."

Rossomando will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Rossomando joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Players of the Year Thomas Milone (2012-13, Masuk High School), Bryan Daniello (2011-12, Brien McMahon High School), Sal Romano (2010 - 11, Southington High School), Colin O'Keefe (2009-10, Waterford), Matt Carasiti (2008-09, Berlin), Jason Esposito (2007-08, Amity), and Matt Harvey (2006-2007, Fitch) 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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