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**OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Nicholas Gordon of Olympia High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year. Gordon is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olympia 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 Gordon as Florida's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Gordon 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 state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Gordon batted .512 with six home runs and 28 RBI this past season, leading the Titans (24-3) to the Class 8A regional semifinals. The returning Jackie Robinson Award winner as named by Perfect Game USA, the 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior shortstop collected 11 doubles, 14 stolen bases and 31 runs scored. A 2013 Under Armour All-American Game selection, he recorded a .588 on-base percentage and .895 slugging percentage.

Gordon has maintained a 3.33 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a teacher's assistant and youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Batting For Success anti-bullying campaign and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"Nick Gordon is a great young man," said Randy O'Neal, head coach at rival Lake Highland Prep. "He works hard on and off the field. He's very dedicated to the game and to getting better every day. He goes to practice with his high school team, and then goes to work out at the gym and take another 100-plus swings. He's very coachable, very quick learner and someone who wants to learn the right way to play the game. He's a humble young man who doesn't want the extra attention."

Gordon has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Florida State 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.

Two-time winner Gordon joins Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Lance McCullers, Jr. (2011-12, Jesuit High School), Jose Fernandez (2010 - 11, Alonso High School), Nick Castellanos (2009-10, Archbishop McCarthy), Bobby Borchering (2008-09, Bishop Verot Catholic), Eric Hosmer (2007-08, American Heritage School), and Michael Main (2006-2007, DeLand) 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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