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**LIBERTYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Evan Skoug of Libertyville High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year. Skoug is the third Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Libertyville 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 Skoug as Illinois's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Skoug 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 5-foot-11, 200-pound senior catcher owned a .482 batting average for the Wildcats (27-5) at the time of his selection. In 32 games, Skoug slugged four home runs and collected 36 RBI while compiling an on-base percentage of .572. A Perfect Game Preseason High School Second Team All-America honoree, he earned First Team All-State recognition as a junior.

Skoug has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician and a devoted member of his church youth group, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter, youth sports programs and Feed My Starving Children. He has also completed a service-mission trip to a South Dakota Native American reservation.

"Skoug is a difference-maker on both offense and defense," said Ray Del Fava, head coach at Lake Forest High. "You have to pitch to him very carefully, and he's a great leader for his team. On defense, he calls a great game, he receives the ball very well, and he just shut down our running game."

Skoug has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Texas Christian 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.

Skoug joins recent Gatorade Illinois Baseball Players of the Year Ryne Roper (2012-13, Harrisburg High School), Kyle Funkhouser (2011-12, Oak Forest High School), Charlie Tilson (2010 - 11, New Trier Township High School), Jake DePew (2009-10, Granite City), Kevin Koziol (2008-09, Brother Rice), Jake Odorizzi (2007-08, Highland), and Jake Smolinski (2006-2007, Boylan Catholic) 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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