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**ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® IOWA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 27, 2014) — — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Keaton McKinney of Ankeny High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year. McKinney is the first Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ankeny 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 McKinney as Iowa's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, McKinney 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.).

Now a student-athlete at the newly opened Ankeny Centennial High, the 6-foot-5, 220-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman posted an 8-0 record, a 0.39 ERA and 61 strikeouts in 52.2 innings pitched, leading the Hawks (34-8) to the first round of the Class 4A state tournament this past season. A 2013 Perfect Game All-American, McKinney also batted .388 with 38 RBI, 30 runs scored and a .611 slugging percentage.

McKinney has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Kiwanis Miracle League in Des Moines.

"Keaton McKinney is not only an exceptional athlete, but also a quality young man," said Ankeny Centennial head coach Mark Hey. "I have no doubt in his ability to be successful at every level of baseball."

McKinney has signed with the University of Arkansas, but is projected as an early round selection in next month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

Iowa—distinct from the other 46 states sanctioning baseball—begins its high school baseball season in conjunction with Memorial Day, which results in the annual Gatorade honor being based upon candidates' previous scholastic season and offseason club/showcase performance, if applicable. McKinney will pitch for Ankeny Centennial as a senior.

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.

McKinney joins recent Gatorade Iowa Baseball Players of the Year Dom Thompson-Williams (2012-13, Sioux City East High School), Calvin Mathews (2011-12, Davis County High School), Austin Christensen (2010 - 11, Kennedy High School), Damek Tomscha (2009-10, North), Dean McArdle (2008-09, North), B.J. Hermsen (2007-08, West Delaware), and Jon Gilmore (2006-2007, City) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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