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**ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Kory Young of Rockford High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year. Young is the first Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rockford 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 Young as Michigan's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Young 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-1, 185-pound senior shortstop led the Rams to a 23-3 record and the Division I district tournament, scheduled for May 27. At the time of his selection, Young owned a .405 batting average with 31 runs scored, 14 RBIs and a .519 slugging percentage. A 2013 Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-State Dream Team selection, he also produced a .538 on-base percentage and 13 steals through 26 games.

Young has maintained a 4.12 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at soup kitchen, as a youth baseball camp counselor for children with disabilities and on behalf of Rockford Athletes with a Mission of Service (RAMS).

"Kory Young is the best middle infield prospect I've seen this year," said Grand Haven High head coach Mike Hansen. "He has all the tools needed to be successful at the next level and beyond. He has great speed, he hits with power and has great base running instincts."

Young has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Michigan State 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.

Young joins recent Gatorade Michigan Baseball Players of the Year Jackson Lamb (2012-13, Bedford High School), Brett Sunde (2011-12, Bishop Foley Catholic High School), Joel Seddon (2010 - 11, St. Clair High School), Jack Livingston (2009-10, Portage Northern), Pat Biondi (2008-09, Divine Child), Tyler Mills (2007-08, Mt. Pleasant), and D.J. LeMahieu (2006-2007, Brother Rice) 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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