

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**MOUNDS VIEW HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Sam Hentges of Mounds View High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year. Hentges is the first Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mounds View 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 Hentges as Minnesota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Hentges 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-6, 240-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman has led the Mustangs to a 14-6 record and a berth in the Section 5AAA playoffs. Entering the postseason, Hentges owned a 5-0 record and 1.06 ERA on the mound along with a .368 batting average, three home runs and 15 RBI. He had 46 strikeouts in 26.1 innings pitched, surrendering just 12 hits. A member of the Pioneer Press All-Metro Team, he is a Perfect Game Preseason High School First Team All-Central Region selection and a Louisville Slugger Pre-Season High School All-America Team honoree.

Hentges has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's student-leadership team, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children.

"Hentges is impressive on the mound and at the plate," said Brian Peloquin, head coach at Irondale High. "He throws 90-plus, he's got control of three pitches and he's really athletic for his size. He might be the best hitter and the best pitcher we've faced."

Hentges has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Hentges joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Logan Shore (2012-13, Coon Rapids High School), Mitch Brown (2011-12, Century High School), Rob Youngdahl (2010 - 11, Hill-Murray School), Chris Anderson (2009-10, Centennial), Ryan Abrahamson (2008-09, Tartan), Brad Hand (2007-08, Chaska), and Mike Kvasnicka (2006-2007, Lakeville North) 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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