

**Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)**

**LEE'S SUMMIT WEST HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Alex Lange of Lee's Summit West High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year. Lange is the first Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lee's Summit West 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 Lange as Missouri's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Lange 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-3, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher, first baseman and designated hitter led the Titans to a 27-3 record and the first round of the Division I state tournament, scheduled to begin May 27. A 2013 Under Armour All-American, Lange posted a 6-0 record through 30 games with a 1.12 ERA and 64 strikeouts in 40 innings pitched. He also compiled a .420 batting average with a home run, 17 RBI and a .531 on-base percentage.

Lange has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Lee's Summit Youth Advisory Board, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Jessie Rees Foundation to fight childhood cancer and as a youth baseball coach and umpire.

"Alex Lange is the ultimate competitor," said Lee's Summit West head coach Jay Meyer. "He is a big game pitcher, a leader and a major cog in our success this year. He is a winner on and off the field."

Lange has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Louisiana 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.

Lange joins recent Gatorade Missouri Baseball Players of the Year Colby Fitch (2012-13, Hickman High School), Blake McFadden (2011-12, Savannah High School), Brett Graves (2010 - 11, Francis Howell High School), Chuckie Jones (2009-10, Boonville), Jacob Turner (2008-09, Westminster Christian Academy), Tim Melville (2007-08, Holt), and Nicholas Tepesch (2006-2007, Blue Springs) 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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