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**NORRIS HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Jakson Reetz of Norris High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year. Reetz is the first Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Norris 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 Reetz as Nebraska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Reetz 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 state's returning Gatorade Nebraska Player of the Year, Reetz batted .487 with eight home runs, 37 runs scored and 37 RBI this past season, leading the Titans (25-4) to the double-elimination Class B state tournament semifinals. The 6-foot-1, 195-pound senior catcher and outfielder recorded a .634 on-base percentage and 1.014 slugging percentage. The 2013 Lincoln Journal Star First Team Super-State and Omaha World-Herald First Team All-Nebraska captain, Reetz also collected five saves on the mound, posting a 2.47 ERA and 12 strikeouts in 11.1 innings. He led Norris to the 2013 Class state title as a junior.

Also a football and basketball standout, Reetz has maintained a 4.87 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Norris Principal Advisory Committee, he co-founded The GameOn 11/25 Group with Norris head coach Jason Cullison to benefit people in need through sports. In addition to donating his time as a youth athletic instructor, he has also volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives, including an anti-drug campaign, a youth literacy-outreach initiative and The Salvation Army.

"He has been a role model for the entire community during his Norris career, but with the creation of the The GameOn 11/25 Group I have seen Jakson grow as a man who is more concerned about putting others' needs before his," said Cullison. "There will never be another player that has the entire package on and off the field to come through Norris, and I am very proud to say that I have coached him."

Reetz has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in next month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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.

Two-time winner Reetz joins Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Nate Griep (2011-12, Millard West High School), Casey Gillaspie (2010 - 11, Millard North High School), Logan Ehlers (2009-10 & 2008-09, Nebraska City), Kash Kalkowski (2007-08, Grand Island Senior), and Matt Freeman (2006-2007, Elkhorn) 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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