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**OLD BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Zach Attianese of Old Bridge High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year. Attianese is the first Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Old Bridge 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 Attianese as New Jersey's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Attianese 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-2, 170-pound sophomore left-handed pitcher compiled a 5-2 record with a 0.61 ERA and 67 strikeouts in 45.2 innings this season, leading the Knights (19-6) to a berth in the Central, Group IV tournament. Also a first baseman, Attianese batted .306 with nine extra-base hits, 18 runs scored and 18 RBI. He will participate in the USA Baseball 17U National Team Development Program this summer.

Attianese has maintained a 4.16 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a teacher's aide in his church's CCD program, as part of an annual basketball game for autistic children and by fundraising for cancer research as well as shoveling snow for the elderly.

"Offensively, Attianese has been our toughest out all year," said Tim Sweeney, head coach at rival South Brunswick High. "He can hit and run very well. He is one of the best all-around guys in the country."

Attianese has verbally committed to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Attianese joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Players of the Year Rob Kaminsky (2012-13 & 2011-12, St. Joseph Regional High School), AJ Murray (2010 - 11, Westfield High School), Bryan Soloman (2009-10, Jackson Memorial), Mike Trout (2008-09, Millville), Quinton Miller (2007-08, Shawnee), and Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seton Hall Prep) 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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