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**CARL ALBERT HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Gavin LaValley of Carl Albert High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Oklahoma Baseball Player of the Year. LaValley is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Carl Albert 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 LaValley as Oklahoma's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, LaValley 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, 215-pound senior first baseman, third baseman and right-handed pitcher led the Titans (38-4) to the Class 5A state championship this past season. LaValley batted .554 with 18 home runs, 62 runs scored and 73 RBI. The 2013 Oklahoma Baseball Coaches Association Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection, he compiled a .662 on-base percentage and slugged 1.151 in 2014. LaValley also posted a 6-1 record on the mound along with a pair of saves, recording a 1.25 ERA and 34 strikeouts in 39.1 innings pitched. Carl Albert has won three straight state titles.

LaValley has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and as an elementary school mentor.

"Gavin LaValley is the most accomplished hitter that we have had come through our highly successful program," said Carl Albert High head coach Wayne Dozier. "His physical ability is only the beginning of his attributes as a player. He is also a great competitor, an outstanding leader and a gifted and well-rounded player both offensively and defensively. His contributions, both as a player and a leader, have allowed us to continue to be highly successful as a team."

LaValley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Oklahoma 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.

LaValley joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Baseball Players of the Year Austin O'Brien (2012-13, Owasso High School), Ty Hensley (2011-12, Edmond Santa Fe High School), Dylan Bundy (2010 - 11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Owasso High School), Bobby Bundy (2007-08, Sperry High School) and Peter Kozma (2006-2007, Owasso) 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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