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**BLACKHAWK HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Brendan McKay of Blackhawk High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year. McKay is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blackhawk 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 McKay as Pennsylvania's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, McKay 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 left-handed pitcher, outfielder and first baseman led the Cougars to a 14-2 record and the Class AAA Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League title game, scheduled for May 28. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, McKay owned a 7-0 record with a 0.00 ERA, 101 strikeouts and just seven walks in 45 innings pitched. He also batted .395 with two home runs and a .667 slugging percentage through 16 games. McKay's ongoing streak of 69 consecutive scoreless innings dating back to 2013 ranks No. 3 in U.S. history according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

McKay has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's Spirit Club, he participated in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League's Sportsmanship Summit and has volunteered locally as a youth baseball and basketball coach.

"Brendan McKay is an absolutely phenomenal high school pitcher," said Mike Othites, head coach at Shenago High. "I have been coaching for over 30 years and he is the best I have ever seen."

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

Two-time winner McKay joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Players of the Year Kenny Koplove (2011-12, William Penn Charter School), Derek Fisher (2010 - 11, Cedar Crest High School), Sean Coyle (2009-10, Germantown Academy), Mike Lubanski (2008-09, Malvern Preparatory School), Zak Sinclair (2007-08, West Allegheny), and Devin Mesoraco (2006-2007, Punxsutawney) 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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