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**SHEPHERD HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Tyler Kolek of Shepherd High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year. Kolek is the first Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Shepherd 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 Kolek as Texas's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Kolek 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-5, 250-pound senior right-handed pitcher compiled a 5-2 record and a 0.35 ERA this past season, recording 126 strikeouts and just eight walks in 60.1 innings while leading the Pirates (10-14) to first round of the Class 3A bi-district playoffs. A 2013 Under Armour All-American and a 2013 Perfect Game All-American, he is ranked as the nation's No. 2 prospect in the class of 2014 by Baseball America and Perfect Game USA and No. 3 by MaxPreps.com.

Kolek has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his school's Senior Serve Fundraiser dinner and as a youth baseball coach.

"What makes Tyler Kolek so hard to prepare for is the enormous speed with which he throws," said Mark Sewell, head coach at Coldspring-Oakhurst High. "He would overpower 99 percent of all high school hitters and a good portion of collegiate hitters."

Kolek has signed with Texas Christian University 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.

Kolek joins recent Gatorade Texas Baseball Players of the Year Kohl Stewart (2012-13, St. Pius X High School), Courtney Hawkins (2011-12, Carroll High School), Josh Bell (2010 - 11, Jesuit College Preparatory School), Jameson Taillon (2009-10, The Woodlands), Shelby Miller (2008-09, Brownwood), Taylor Jungmann (2007-08, Georgetown), and Blake Beavan (2006-2007, Irving) 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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