Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® UTAH 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 Colton Shaver of Jordan High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year. Shaver is the first Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jordan 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 Shaver as Utah's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Shaver 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-1, 220-pound senior catcher and right-handed pitcher led the Beetdiggers (24-5) to the Class 5A state championship this past season. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, Shaver batted .500 with 12 home runs, 39 RBI, 26 extra-base hits and a 1.095 slugging percentage. On the mound, he posted a 6-0 record with a 1.02 ERA and 64 strikeouts in 55 innings pitched.

Shaver has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his parish community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and as a youth baseball coach.

"Colton Shaver is just so well-disciplined and he brings a lot of composure and good leadership to the field," said Jordan High head coach Chad Fife. "His pitch recognition is unbelievable. He hits an off-speed pitch better than he hits a fastball, which will help him at the next level when he moves on. His work ethic is untouchable."

Shaver has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Brigham Young University 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.

Shaver joins recent Gatorade Utah Baseball Players of the Year Riley Gates (2012-13, Snow Canyon High School), Kayden Porter (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, Spanish Fork High School), Adam Duke (2009-10, Spanish Fork), Marcus Littlewood (2008-09 & 2007-08 Pine View) and Tanner Robles (2006-2007, Cottonwood) 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.