

**Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)**

**CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 Seth Kinker of Cabell Midland High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year. Kinker is the third Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cabell Midland 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 Kinker as West Virginia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Kinker 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, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Knights to a 21-11 record and a berth in the Class AAA Region IV tournament, scheduled to begin May 27. The only underclassman to receive 2013 Second Team All-American honors from the National High School Baseball Coaches Association, Kinker owned a 9-2 record with two saves, a 0.45 ERA and 111 strikeouts in 77.2 innings at the time of his selection. A returning Class AAA First Team All-State honoree as named by the West Virginia Baseball Coaches Association, Kinker, also a shortstop, batted .375 with five home runs, 14 runs scored and 16 RBI.

Kinker has maintained a 4.23 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's student council as well as serving as student body treasurer, he has volunteered on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth baseball instructor.

"In the 11 years that I have been head coach, he is the most competitive player that I have ever coached," said Cabell Midland head coach Tracy Brumfield. "Seth also demonstrates leadership both on and off the field. In the classroom, he is at the top of his class and makes people around him better."

Kinker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Ohio State 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.

Kinker joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Players of the Year Corey Bird (2012-13, Herbert Hoover High School), Korey Dunbar (2011-12, Nitro High School), Tyler Payne (2010 - 11, Hurricane High School), J.R. Bradley (2009-10, Nitro), Corey Miller (2008-09, Cabell Midland), Chase Pickering (2007-08, Nitro), and Patrick Arnold (2006-2007, Huntington) 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).

###