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**PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 28, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Hunter Stovall of Pelham High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year. Stovall is the second Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pelham 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 Stovall as Alabama's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Stovall 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 Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 5-foot-9, 160-pound senior catcher batted .441 with 10 home runs, 45 runs-scored and 51 RBI this past season, leading the Panthers (33-12) to the Class 6A state championship series. A Perfect Game USA Preseason Honorable Mention All-American, Stovall stole 24 bases and worked 18 walks, recording a .509 on-base percentage and .825 slugging percentage. A returning Class 6A Honorable Mention All-State selection as named by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, he helped lead Pelham to the 2013 Class 6A state championship as a sophomore.

Stovall has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church, the March of Dimes Foundation, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Field of Angels Baseball League for children with disabilities. In addition to participating in multiple charitable initiatives to benefit the homeless and raise awareness for breast and ovarian cancer, Stovall has also donated his time as a youth baseball instructor, at an assisted living facility and as part of a toy and clothing drive.

"I really feel like he was the best defensive catcher we saw all year," said Hunter Gregory, head coach of Northridge High. "He probably had the best arm of anybody. It was unbelievable. He picked a guy off first and a guy off second, throwing behind them. And then offensively, he hit an opposite-field home run, which you rarely see at any level, and we threw it four inches off the plate. We couldn't beat him inside. We could hardly throw it in the air and have him not hit it."

Stovall has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Mississippi 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.

Stovall joins recent Gatorade Alabama Baseball Players of the Year Cody Reed (2013-14, Ardmore High School), Keegan Thompson (2012-13 & 2010-11, Cullman High School), Mikey White (2011-12, Spain Park High School), Daryl Norris (2009-10, Fairhope High School), Luke Bole (2008-09, Hartselle High School), Tyler Stovall (2007-08, Hokes Bluff High School), and Hunter Morris (2006-07, Grissom High School) 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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