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**KETCHIKAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 28, 2015) — In its 30<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 Nathan Bonck of Ketchikan High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year. Bonck is the first Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ketchikan 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 Bonck as Alaska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Bonck 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 6-foot-5, 195-pound junior left-handed pitcher has led the King Salmon to a 12-3 record with the regional tournament scheduled to begin May 28. At the time of his selection, he had posted a 3-0 record with a 1.11 ERA and 22 strikeouts in 19 innings. A 2014 First Team All-Southeast Conference honoree, he batted .489 with four home runs, 22 RBI and a .957 slugging percentage through 15 games, also playing outfield and first base.

Bonck has maintained a 3.0 GPA in the classroom. A standout on the varsity basketball team, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Young Life faith-based ministry and as a youth baseball coach and umpire.

"I've watched Nathan Bonck for the last three years and he is by far the best player in southeast Alaska," said Ed Conway, head coach at Sitka High. "He's a big hard throwing lefty with a ton of power. He plays the game the right way."

Bonck has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Seattle University beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Bonck joins recent Gatorade Alaska Baseball Players of the Year Scooter Bynum (2013-14, Monroe Catholic High School), Erickson Fish (2012-13, Sitka High School), Zach Ferntheil (2011-12, Service High School), Adam Manzer (2010-11, West Anchorage High School), Dylan Baker (2009-10, Juneau-Douglas High School), Ross Venneberg (2008-09, Sitka High School), Joe Kohan (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas High School), and Ryan Skillern (2006-07, South 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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