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**FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Andy Pagnozzi of Fayetteville High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Player of the Year. Pagnozzi is the second Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fayetteville 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 Pagnozzi as Arkansas's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Pagnozzi 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, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman posted a 9-1 record with a 0.61 ERA and 110 strikeouts in 68 innings, leading the Bulldogs (27-4) to Class 7A semifinals this past season. A four-time First Team All-State selection, Pagnozzi hurled a 5-inning perfect game against Little Rock Central in the Class 7A quarterfinals. He is the state's No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2015 as ranked by Perfect Game USA and he produced a 12-to-1 strikeouts-to-walks ratio and a 0.54 WHIP while also batting .284 with 12 RBI this spring.

Pagnozzi has maintained a B average in the classroom. The son of former Major League All-Star Tom Pagnozzi, he has volunteered on behalf of Pagnozzi Charities and worked part-time at a local T-shirt printing shop.

"Andy Pagnozzi is an extremely dedicated worker who thrives on competition," said Fayetteville High head coach Vance Arnold. "He does this through his mental and physical preparation prior to taking the field before each and every baseball game. He is always ready for every baseball situation."

Pagnozzi has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Mississippi this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in June's Major League Baseball 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.

Pagnozzi joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Players of the Year Trevor Ezell (2013-14, Bryant High School), Carson Shaddy (2012-13, Fayetteville High School), Trey Killian (2011-12, Mountain Home High School), Dillon Howard (2010-11, Searcy High School), Brandon Moore (2009-10, Van Buren High School), D.J. Baxendale (2008-09, Sylvan Hills High School), Tyler Wilson (2007-08, Greenwood High School), and Scott Sammons (2006-07, Searcy 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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