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**COLLEGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Joe DeMers of College Park High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year. DeMers is the first Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from College Park 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 DeMers as California's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, DeMers 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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-1, 235-pound senior right-handed pitcher and infielder had led the Falcons to a 21-4 record and a berth in the Diablo Valley Athletic League championship game against Clayton Valley Charter. DeMers owned a 9-1 record with a 0.50 ERA and 78 strikeouts in 70 innings through 25 games. A 2015 Perfect Game First Team All-American, he also batted .469 with six home runs, 39 RBI and a .925 slugging percentage entering the league title game. He was a member of USA Baseball's 18U National Team, which won a third consecutive gold medal after compiling a 12-0 record at the 2014 Pan American Championship in Mexico last summer. He finished that tournament with a 2-0 record and a save, recording 12 strikeouts over seven innings-pitched in the tournament.

DeMers has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter, as a library assistant and as a youth baseball coach and camp counselor.

"Joe DeMers is an impact player in every phase of the game—on the mound, in the batters' box, on defense and on the bases," said Casey Coakley, head coach at Clayton Valley Charter. "I also have seen him work as a leader over the past three seasons. He is the ultimate high school baseball game-changer. If there is a more impact player, I would like to see him."

DeMers has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

DeMers joins recent Gatorade California Baseball Players of the Year Jack Flaherty (2013-14, Harvard-Westlake School), Carlos Salazar (2012-13, Kerman High School), Ty Moore (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Robert Stephenson (2010-11, Alhambra High School), Dylan Covey (2009-10, Maranatha High School), Matt Hobgood (2008-09, Norco High School), Kyle Skipworth (2007-08, Patriot High School), and Josh Vitters (2006-07, Cypress 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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