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**WESTMONT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Charlie Donovan of Westmont High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year. Donovan is the first Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Westmont 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 Donovan as Illinois's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Donovan 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-11, 180-pound senior shortstop had led the Sentinels to a 27-8 record and a berth in the regional playoffs at the time of his selection. Donovan owned a .524 batting average with six home runs and 32 RBI through 35 games. He also scored 60 runs, stole 39 bases and posted a .952 slugging percentage. A two-time All-State honoree and the Interstate Eight Player of the Year, Donovan was a MaxPreps Small School All-American, a Perfect Game First Team Preseason All-Region selection, and a member of USA TODAY's American Family Insurance ALL-USA Illinois First Team.

Donovan has maintained a 4.36 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and youth sports programs.

"He's so good, and he does everything the right way," said Pete Meyer, head coach at Lisle High. "He has great knowledge of the strike zone, he can hit for power, can hit the gaps, lay down a bunt. He's got a gun for an arm, and he's probably the fastest kid I've ever coached against."

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

Donovan joins recent Gatorade Illinois Baseball Players of the Year Evan Skoug (2013-14, Libertyville High School), Ryne Roper (2012-13, Harrisburg High School), Kyle Funkhouser (2011-12, Oak Forest High School), Charlie Tilson (2010-11, New Trier Township High School), Jake DePew (2009-10, Granite City), Kevin Koziol (2008-09, Brother Rice), Jake Odorizzi (2007-08, Highland), and Jake Smolinski (2006-07, Boylan Catholic) 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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