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## **NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® IOWA 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 Robert Neustrom of North High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year. Neustrom is the third Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from North 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 Neustrom as Iowa's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Neustrom 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-4, 225-pound senior outfielder and left-handed pitcher batted .540 with 46 RBI, 19 doubles and a .600 on-base percentage, leading the Stars (25-15) to the Class 4A sub-state playoffs this past season. A 2014 Super Team All-State selection, Neustrom also posted a 5-1 record on the mound with a 1.07 ERA and 54 strikeouts in 46 innings pitched.

Neustrom has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) and the Midtown Family Community Center.

"Robert Neustrom was the overall best player we saw [last season]," said Blake Utley, head coach at Fort Dodge High. "The only way we knew to combat Neustrom at the plate was to walk him, so that's what we did. On the mound he dominated us and was the best pitcher we saw. He is also a very nice young man as well. After we beat them in an extra-inning game that ended his season, he handled it with class."

Neustrom will attend the University of Iowa this fall, where he will play baseball.

Iowa—distinct from the other 46 states sanctioning baseball—begins its high school baseball season in conjunction with Memorial Day, which results in the annual Gatorade honor being based upon candidates' previous scholastic season and offseason club/showcase performance, if applicable. Neustrom will play for Sioux City North as a senior.

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.

Neustrom joins recent Gatorade Iowa Baseball Players of the Year Keaton McKinney (2013-14, Ankeny High School), Dom Thompson-Williams (2012-13, Sioux City East High School), Calvin Mathews (2011-12, Davis County High School), Austin Christensen (2010-11, Kennedy High School), Damek Tomscha (2009-10, North High School), Dean McArdle (2008-09, North High School), B.J. Hermsen (2007-08, West Delaware High School), and Jon Gilmore (2006-07, City 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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