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**PLYMOUTH NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Walsh of Plymouth North High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year. Walsh is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Plymouth 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 Walsh as Massachusetts's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Walsh 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-1, 215-pound junior left-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Blue Eagles to a 12-6 record at the time of his selection. Walsh owned a 4-1 record and a 0.58 ERA through 18 games, also producing a .429 batting average and 20 RBI. He had 58 strikeouts in 36 innings pitched, surrendering just 12 hits. A Perfect Game Third Team Underclass All-American, Walsh was an All-League selection and a Patriot Ledger All-Scholastic honoree as a sophomore.

Walsh has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and an elementary school reading initiative.

"Walsh is tough, hard-nosed and very skilled," said Paul Funk, head coach at Dennis-Yarmouth High. "He's the epitome of what a high school baseball player should be. I love competing against him."

Walsh will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Walsh joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Baseball Players of the Year Joe Freiday (2013-14, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School), Ben Bowden (2012-13, Lynn English High School), Rhett Wiseman (2011-12, Buckingham Browne & Nichols), John Gorman (2010-11, Catholic Memorial School), Kevin Ziomek (2009-10, Amherst Regional), Kyle McKenzie (2008-09, Thayer Academy), Scott Weismann (2007-08, Acton-Boxborough), and Jack McGeary (2006-07, Roxbury Latin 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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