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**NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Luke Shilling of Notre Dame Preparatory School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year. Shilling is the first Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Notre Dame Preparatory 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 Shilling as Michigan's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Shilling 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-5, 250-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Fighting Irish to a 20-10 record and the Division II district tournament, scheduled to begin May 30. At the time of his selection, Shilling owned a 7-1 record with a 0.70 ERA and 104 strikeouts in 49.2 innings. Ranked as the state's No. 2 prep prospect in the Class of 2015 by Perfect Game USA, he batted .383 with six home runs, 22 RBI and a .704 slugging percentage through 30 games.

Shilling has maintained a 3.41 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a food bank, as a youth baseball coach and in association with Focus: HOPE, a non-profit organization which aims to help overcome racism and poverty.

"Luke Shilling is one of the strongest pitchers and overall baseball players that we have competed against in recent years," said Michael Hardies, head coach at Lutheran North High. "He obviously throws hard, but he also displayed great control in the game he threw against us. He is also a fine catcher and is a strong hitter."

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

Shilling joins recent Gatorade Michigan Baseball Players of the Year Kory Young (2013-14, Rockford High School), Jackson Lamb (2012-13, Bedford High School), Brett Sunde (2011-12, Bishop Foley Catholic High School), Joel Seddon (2010-11, St. Clair High School), Jack Livingston (2009-10, Portage Northern), Pat Biondi (2008-09, Divine Child), Tyler Mills (2007-08, Mt. Pleasant), and D.J. LeMahieu (2006-07, Brother Rice) 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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