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**LITCHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Eduardo Estrada of Litchfield High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year. Estrada is the first Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Litchfield 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 Estrada as Minnesota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Estrada 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, 210-pound senior shortstop had led the Dragons to a 14-6 record at the time of his selection. Through 20 games, Estrada owned a .565 batting average with seven home runs, 36 RBI and 35 runs-scored. He stole 11 bases and posted a .685 on-base percentage, with a slugging percentage of 1.097. An All-Conference, All-Section and All-Area selection in 2014, Estrada was also a Perfect Game Honorable Mention Preseason All-American.

Estrada has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. A peer mentor in his school, he has volunteered on behalf of youth baseball, hockey and football programs.

"Estrada exemplifies everything a ball player should be," said Mike Thompson, head coach at New London-Spicer High. "He has a plan each and every time he steps to the plate. He doesn't give in, and he's relentless."

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

Estrada joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Sam Hentges (2013-14, Mounds View High School), Logan Shore (2012-13, Coon Rapids High School), Mitch Brown (2011-12, Century High School), Rob Youngdahl (2010-11, Hill-Murray School), Chris Anderson (2009-10, Centennial), Ryan Abrahamson (2008-09, Tartan), Brad Hand (2007-08, Chaska), and Mike Kvasnicka (2006-07, Lakeville North) 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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