

**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**MILLARD WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Cole Stobbe of Millard West High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year. Stobbe is the fourth Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard West 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 Stobbe as Nebraska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Stobbe 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-2, 185-pound junior shortstop batted .426 with four home runs, 43 runs scored and 44 RBI this past season, leading the Wildcats (22-12) to the final four of the Class A state tournament. A returning Omaha World-Herald Second Team All-Nebraska selection, Stobbe stole 11 bases, worked 23 walks and collected 28 extra-base hits, recording a .562 on-base percentage and a .832 slugging percentage. A Perfect Game USA Preseason Underclassmen First Team All-American, he was one of eight players selected to the 2015 USA Baseball 18U National Team Trials roster following the USA Baseball National Team Identification Series.

Stobbe has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of the Miracle League and Salvation Army.

"Stobbe is an absolute stud," said Gerald Kreber, head coach of rival Omaha Central High. "He's the best player we saw, especially defensively. He took a bunch of hits away from us in a close game. He changed the game defensively."

Stobbe will begin his senior year of high school this fall and has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas beginning in the fall of 2016.

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.

Stobbe joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Jakson Reetz (2013-14 & 2012-13, Norris High School), Nate Griep (2011-12, Millard West High School), Casey Gillaspie (2010-11, Millard North High School), Logan Ehlers (2009-10 & 2008-09, Nebraska City), Kash Kalkowski (2007-08, Grand Island Senior), and Matt Freeman (2006-07, Elkhorn) 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).

###