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**RED RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Colin Hennessy of Red River High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year. Hennessy is the second Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Red River 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 Hennessy as North Dakota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Hennessy 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, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher had led the Roughriders to a 20-4 record and a No. 3 seed in the Class A regional tournament at the time of his selection. A returning Class A First Team All-State selection as named by the North Dakota High School Coaches Association, Hennessy owned a 4-1 record with one save, a 0.90 ERA and 50 strikeouts against just eight walks in 31 innings-pitched through 24 games. Also a shortstop, he batted .453 with seven doubles, 18 walks, 22 runs-scored and 26 RBI, recording a .598 on-base percentage entering the postseason.

Hennessy has maintained a 3.71 weighted GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. In addition to donating his time as a youth baseball and hockey instructor, he has volunteered with the Special Olympics.

"Colin Hennessy is a tremendous leader," said Wade Gilbertson, head coach of rival Wahpeton High. "From watching him play, he's the leader of their baseball program. I think I speak for all coaches when I say we would all like to have a player of that caliber on our team every year. As he goes, their baseball team goes. I admire the work he puts in and admire his leadership."

Hennessy remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Hennessy joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Players of the Year Ian Schultz (2013-14, Fargo North High School), Ellery Bresnahan (2012-13, Central Cass High School), Andy Young (2011-12, West Fargo High School), David Ernst (2010-11 & 2009-10, Fargo South High School), Cole Frenzel (2008-09, Dickinson High School), Zac Elgie (2007-08, Minot High School), and Tanner Lorenz (2006-07, Harvey 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.

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