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WALSH JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® OHIO 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 Ryan Feltner of Walsh Jesuit High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year. Feltner is the second Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Walsh Jesuit 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 Feltner as Ohio's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Feltner 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-4, 180-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Warriors to a 25-3 record and the Division I regional tournament, scheduled to begin May 28. At the time of his selection, Feltner owned a 7-1 record with a 1.28 ERA and 52 strikeouts in 43.2 innings-pitched. A 2014 First Team All-State selection, he posted a .326 batting average with a pair of home runs, 12 RBI and a .581 slugging percentage entering the postseason.

Feltner has maintained a 3.10 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of The American Cancer Society, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and as a youth baseball coach.

"Ryan Feltner is one of the finest, brightest, most mature and sincere young men I have had the good fortune to coach," said Walsh Jesuit High head coach Chris Kaczmar. "He is a tremendous, national-caliber talent on the mound as well as in our lineup who will be missed a great deal once he graduates. I am very proud of his deserving success."

Feltner has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at The Ohio State University 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.

Feltner joins recent Gatorade Ohio Baseball Players of the Year Cameron Varga (2013-14, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy), Andrew Benintendi (2012-13, Madeira High School), Adam Schaly (2011-12, Ashland High School), Taylore Cherry (2010-11, Butler High School), David Whitehead (2009-10, Moeller), Tyler Skulina (2008-09, Walsh Jesuit High School), Ryan Curl (2007-08, St. Francis DeSales), and Derek Dietrich (2006-07, St. Ignatius) 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.