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**TUALATIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Jacob Bennett of Tualatin High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year. Bennett is the first Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tualatin 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 Bennett as Oregon's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Bennett 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-6, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher had led the Timberwolves to a 17-9 record and a No. 11 seed in the Class 6A state tournament at the time of his selection. The returning Class 6A Pitcher of the Year as named by The Oregonian, Bennett owned a 7-2 record with one save, a 1.50 ERA and 85 strikeouts against just 14 walks in 60.2 innings-pitched through 26 games. Also a shortstop and third baseman, Bennett batted .391 with eight extra-base hits, 14 RBI, 15 walks and 19 runs scored, recording a .480 on-base percentage and .500 slugging percentage.

Bennett has maintained a B average in the classroom and served in his school's student government. In addition to donating his time as a youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered as a blood donor, as part of community cleanup efforts and with Goodwill Industries International.

"Jacob Bennett is legit," said Tom Campbell, head coach of rival Tigard High. "Obviously, he's a Division I player. He's a very, very good all-around athlete. He's a real quality baseball player. He's been in that program for four years, and he's been an impact player every year."

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

Bennett joins recent Gatorade Oregon Baseball Players of the Year Elliott Cary (2013-14, Clackamas High School), Austin Kelly (2012-13, Clackamas High School), Carson Kelly (2011-12 & 2010-11, Westview High School), Ben Wetzler (2009-10, Clackamas), Matt Maurer (2008-09, North Medford), Ryan Gorton (2007-08, Tigard), and Joey Mahalic (2006-07, Wilson) 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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