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**BELTON-HONEA PATH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Jake Crawford of Belton-Honea Path High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Player of the Year. Crawford is the first Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Belton-Honea Path 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 Crawford as South Carolina's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Crawford 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.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher and infielder had led the Bears to a 26-4 record and the Class AAA championship series. Crawford owned a 9-0 record and a 0.57 ERA with 81 strikeouts in 61.1 innings through 30 games. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, he batted .337 with a pair of home runs, 24 RBI and 23 runs-scored entering the state finals.

Crawford has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is ranked second in a graduating class of 244 students. The vice president of the National Honor Society, he is a member of the Beta Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has volunteered locally on behalf of Meals on Wheels as well as the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation.

"Jake Crawford is an outstanding player, a great competitor and displays tremendous sportsmanship," said Matthew Frazier, head coach at Palmetto High. "I understand he is an outstanding student and hard worker, as well. He is a wonderful representative for South Carolina."

Crawford has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Furman 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.

Crawford joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Players of the Year Grant Holmes (2013-14, Conway High School), Nick Ciuffo (2012-13, Lexington High School), Jamie Callahan (2011-12, Dillon High School), Jordan Montgomery (2010-11, Sumter High School), Forrest Koumas (2009-10, Lugoff-Elgin), Madison Younginer (2008-09, Mauldin), Zac Fuesser (2007-08, York Comprehensive), and Steven Neff (2006-07, Lancaster) 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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