

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**PLEASANT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Payton Henry of Pleasant Grove High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year. Henry is the first Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pleasant Grove 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 Henry as Utah's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Henry 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-2, 217-pound junior catcher and right-handed pitcher had led the Vikings to a 25-2 record and the Class 5A semifinals. Henry batted .531 with nine home runs, 44 RBI and a .987 slugging percentage through 27 games. A 2014 First Team All-State honoree, he posted five saves a 0.72 ERA while striking out 11 batters in 9.2 innings entering the state final four.

Henry has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and in association with Especially For Athletes, a student-athlete empowerment organization.

"Payton Henry has been phenomenal this season," said Matthew Bezzant, head coach at Lone Peak High. "He is definitely one of the best players in the state. He will be playing at the Division I level someday and you can tell the work he has put in has been paying off."

Henry will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Henry joins recent Gatorade Utah Baseball Players of the Year Colton Shaver (2013-14, Jordan High School), Riley Gates (2012-13, Snow Canyon High School), Kayden Porter (2011-12 & 2010-11, Spanish Fork High School), Adam Duke (2009-10, Spanish Fork), Marcus Littlewood (2008-09 & 2007-08, Pine View), and Tanner Robles (2006-07, Cottonwood) 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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