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**UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Cody Hawken of Union High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year. Hawken is the first Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Union 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 Hawken as Washington's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Hawken 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-3, 205-pound senior outfielder had led the Titans to a 14-3 record and the Class 4A regional tournament. Hawken batted .465 with seven home runs and 30 RBI through 17 games. The 2015 Greater St. Helens League Player of the Year, he produced a .582 on-base percentage and a .986 slugging percentage with 18 of his 33 hits going for extra bases entering the regional round of the postseason.

Hawken has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. An avid outdoorsman, he has helped manage his family-run fishing supplies store and has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach.

"Cody Hawken has been a great player for our program he has improved an aspect of his game each year," said Union High head coach Ben McGrew. "As he continues to learn the game, his potential is limitless as a baseball player."

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

Hawken joins recent Gatorade Washington Baseball Players of the Year Luke Heimlich (2013-14, Puyallup High School), Reese McGuire (2012-13, Kentwood High School), Trevor Lane (2011-12, Mount Si High School), Trevor Mitsui (2010-11, Shorewood High School), Drew Vettleson (2009-10 & 2008-09, Central Kitsap), Rusty Shellhorn (2007-08, Central Valley), and Greg Peavey (2006-07, Hudson's Bay) 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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