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**SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 24, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jonny Homza of South Anchorage High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year. Homza is the second Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Homza as Alaska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Homza 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 John Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 6-foot, 180-pound junior shortstop and right-handed pitcher has led the Wolverines to a 6-1 record with the Alaska State Athletic Association state tournament scheduled to begin on June 2. At the time of his selection, Homza was batting .517 with 17 runs scored and nine RBI while producing a .611 on-base percentage through seven games. A USA TODAY American Family Insurance ALL-USA Alaska honoree as a junior, he owned a 2-0 record on the mound and tossed a no-hitter against West Anchorage earlier this month.

Homza has maintained a 3.47 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Standing Together Against Rape and as a youth baseball coach and camp counselor.

"I first saw Jonny Homza play as a 10-year-old and even at that young age, I could tell he was going to be a special player," said South Anchorage head coach Taylor Nerland. "He possesses great physical assets but what sets him apart is his baseball IQ. He is a complete ballplayer and a great teammate."

Homza has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Hawaii beginning in the fall of 2017.

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.

Homza joins recent Gatorade Alaska Baseball Players of the Year Nathan Bonck (2014-15, Ketchikan High School), Scooter Bynum (2013-14, Monroe Catholic High School), Erickson Fish (2012-13, Sitka High School), Zach Ferntheil (2011-12, Service High School), Adam Manzer (2010-11, West Anchorage High School), Dylan Baker (2009-10, Juneau-Douglas High School), Ross Venneberg (2008-09, Sitka High School), Joe Kohan (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas High School), and Ryan Skillern (2006-07, South Anchorage High School) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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