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**LA COSTA CANYON HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 24, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Mickey Moniak of La Costa Canyon High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year. Moniak is the first Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from La Costa Canyon 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 Moniak as California's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Moniak 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-2, 180-pound senior outfielder led the Mavericks to a 23-5 record and a berth in the CIF San Diego Section Open Division Tournament, scheduled for May 27. At the time of his selection, Moniak was batting .471 with six home runs, 12 triples, 44 RBI and a .921 slugging percentage. A USA TODAY American Family Insurance ALL-USA Preseason selection, he is ranked No. 6 in the nation in the Class of 2016 by Perfect Game USA and participated in the Perfect Game All-American Classic at Petco Park in San Diego last summer.

Moniak has maintained a 3.03 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth baseball coach.

"Mickey Moniak stands out as a very special player," said Bill Dillon, head coach at Narbonne High. "He is as good as we have seen this season. He plays the game the right way. We knew before the game began who he was and he lived up to the hype. He is extremely athletic, has a plus arm with tremendous speed, had great reads in the outfield and is the best hitter that we have faced this year."

Moniak has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at UCLA this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in June's Major League Baseball draft.

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.

Moniak joins recent Gatorade California Baseball Players of the Year Joe DeMers (2014-15, College Park High School), Jack Flaherty (2013-14, Harvard-Westlake School), Carlos Salazar (2012-13, Kerman High School), Ty Moore (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Robert Stephenson (2010-11, Alhambra High School), Dylan Covey (2009-10, Maranatha High School), Matt Hobgood (2008-09, Norco High School), Kyle Skipworth (2007-08, Patriot High School), and Josh Vitters (2006-07, Cypress 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.

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