

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3622)**

**LEWIS-PALMER HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Paul Tillotson of Lewis-Palmer High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year. Tillotson is the first Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lewis-Palmer 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 Tillotson as Colorado's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Tillotson 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, 185-pound senior right-handed pitcher compiled an 8-1 record with a 1.02 ERA and 86 strikeouts in 55 innings pitched this past season, leading the Rangers (15-6) to the Class 4A district finals. Also an outfielder, Tillotson batted .562 with four home runs, 19 runs scored and 40 RBI. The Denver Post's returning Class 4A Player of the Year, he worked 16 walks and belted 19 extra-base hits, recording a .678 on-base percentage and 1.058 slugging percentage.

Tillotson has maintained a 3.46 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a member of Lewis-Palmer's spirit club, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Children's Hospital Colorado and as part of food drives to benefit residents displaced by the Waldo Canyon fire.

"I'm in my 22nd year coaching varsity baseball, and this kind of kid doesn't come around very often," said Mark Swope, head coach at rival Cheyenne Mountain High. "He's one of the most dominant pitchers I've seen in a long time, and you don't want to pitch to him on the offensive side, either, as he's without question the best hitter in our league."

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

Tillotson joins recent Gatorade Colorado Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Madden (2014-15, Fairview High School), Max George (2013-14, Regis Jesuit High School), Griffin Jax (2012-13, Cherry Creek High School), Ryan Warner (2011-12, Pine Creek High School), Greg Bird (2010-11, Grandview High School), Marco Gonzales (2009-10, Rocky Mountain High School), Bryan Peters (2008-09, Rocky Mountain High School), Andy Burns (2007-08, Rocky Mountain High School), and Matt Presley (2006-07, Cheyenne Mountain 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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