

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3622)

**EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Jimmy Titus of East Catholic High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year. Titus is the first Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from East Catholic 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 Titus as Connecticut's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Titus 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-1, 195-pound senior shortstop had led the Eagles to a 14-3 record at the time of his selection. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Titus owned a .648 batting average with six home runs, 27 RBI and a 1.185 slugging percentage through 17 games. The Hartford Courant Player of the Year as a junior, he was also a Rawlings/Perfect Game First Team Preseason All-American and was named to the USA TODAY's American Family Insurance ALL-USA Connecticut First Team.

Titus has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally coaching youth baseball players and assisting the disabled with MARC, Inc. of Manchester.

"Titus is a man among boys as a hitter," said Matt Rondinone, head coach at East Hartford High. "He's also a great leader and he plays the game the right way. He's the best player on the field every game he plays."

Titus has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Bryant University 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.

Two-time winner Titus joins Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Players of the Year Ronnie Rossomando (2013-14, Bunnell High School), Thomas Milone (2012-13, Masuk High School), Bryan Daniello (2011-12, Brien McMahon High School), Sal Romano (2010-11, Southington High School), Colin O'Keefe (2009-10, Waterford High School), Matt Carasiti (2008-09, Berlin High School), Jason Esposito (2007-08, Amity High School), and Matt Harvey (2006-07, Fitch 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.

###