

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3622)

**TATES CREEK HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Jaren Shelby of Tates Creek High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year. Shelby is the third Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Tates Creek 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 Shelby as Kentucky's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Shelby 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.).

The 5-foot-11, 191-pound senior centerfielder has led the Commodores to a 24-6 record and a berth in the state tournament, scheduled to begin June 9. At the time of his selection, Shelby owned a .405 batting average with 12 home runs, 34 RBI and 30 stolen bases. A 2015 First Team All-State selection, he played in the 2015 Perfect Game All-American Classic at Petco Park in San Diego last summer.

Shelby has maintained a 3.39 in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth baseball coach.

"Jaren Shelby is the best hitter I have seen in years," said Wayne Huff, head coach at Boone County High. "He has a short compact swing with a ton of power."

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

Shelby joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Players of the Year Caleb Bruner (2014-15, Logan County High School), Kaleb Duckworth (2013-14, Henderson County High School), Drew Harrington (2012-13, Central Hardin High School), Ryne Combs (2011-12, Bryan Station High School), Zach Lucas (2010-11, Butler Traditional High School), Trevor Gott (2009-10, Tates Creek High School), Luke Maile (2008-09, Covington Catholic High School), Robbie Ross (2007-08, Lexington Christian Academy), and Ben Revere (2006-07, Lexington Catholic Academy) 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.

###