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**WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Jake Matheny of Westminster Christian Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year. Matheny is the first Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Westminster Christian Academy.

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 Matheny as Missouri's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Matheny 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 6-foot-3, 190-pound senior catcher batted .414 with 11 home runs and 43 RBI, leading the Wildcats (21-10) to the Class 4 district championship game this past season. The state's No. 3 ranked prospect as rated by Prep Baseball Report, Matheny produced an .820 slugging percentage with 22 of his 46 hits going for extra bases. The son of current St. Louis Cardinals manager Mike Matheny, he was a Second Team All-State selection as a junior in 2015.

Matheny has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor and a youth baseball coach, and also completed a service-mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

"Jake Matheny is the best individual player that we have played against this year," said Jon Mueller, head coach at Lutheran North High. "In addition to his offensive prowess, he is also a great defensive catcher. We did not try to run on him at all and he handles his pitchers very well."

Matheny has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship Indiana 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.

Matheny joins recent Gatorade Missouri Baseball Players of the Year Jeremy Eierman (2014-15, Warsaw High School), Alex Lange (2013-14, Lee's Summit West High School), Colby Fitch (2012-13, Hickman High School), Blake McFadden (2011-12, Savannah High School), Brett Graves (2010-11, Francis Howell High School), Chuckie Jones (2009-10, Boonville High School), Jacob Turner (2008-09, Westminster Christian Academy), Tim Melville (2007-08, Holt High School), and Nicholas Tepesch (2006-07, Blue Springs 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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