

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3622)

**MILLARD WEST HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Cole Stobbe of Millard West High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year. Stobbe is the fourth Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard West 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 Stobbe as Nebraska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Stobbe 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-2, 200-pound senior shortstop led the Wildcats to a 28-6 record and the Class A state final this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Stobbe batted .437 with 14 home runs, 43 RBI, 51 runs scored and a .990 slugging percentage. A First Team Super-State and All-Nebraska selection as a junior, he was a member of the USA Baseball 18U National Team. Also a Rawlings/Perfect Game First Team Preseason All-American, Stobbe was named to the USA TODAY's American Family Insurance ALL-USA Nebraska First Team.

Stobbe has maintained a 3.46 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, the American Cancer Society and youth baseball programs.

"I haven't seen another player change the complexion of the game the way that Stobbe can," said Jason Shockey, head coach at Bellevue West High. "He's an unbelievable shortstop who covers a ton of ground and has very good arm strength. He's always been an extremely tough out, but this year he added much more power to his game."

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

Two-time winner Stobbe joins Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Jakson Reetz (2013-14 & 2012-13, Norris High School), Nate Griep (2011-12, Millard West High School), Casey Gillaspie (2010-11, Millard North High School), Logan Ehlers (2009-10 & 2008-09, Nebraska City High School), Kash Kalkowski (2007-08, Grand Island Senior High School), and Matt Freeman (2006-07, Elkhorn 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.

###