

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3622)

**BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Grant Lavigne of Bedford High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year. Lavigne is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bedford 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 Lavigne as New Hampshire's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Lavigne 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-4, 220-pound sophomore first baseman had led the Bulldogs to an 11-3 record at the time of his selection. Lavigne owned a .543 batting average with six home runs and 21 RBI through 14 games. A First Team All-State selection as a freshman, he has posted an on-base percentage of .696 and a slugging percentage of 1.200. He is ranked as the No. 89 player nationally in the Class of 2018 by Perfect Game.

Lavigne has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball teams and his church's religious education program.

"Lavigne is the best hitter I've seen at that age," said Logan Gillis, head coach at Nashua North High. "He can hit to all fields, he can hit for power, he can hit any pitch you throw at him. He's just a very difficult kid to get out."

Lavigne will begin his junior year of high school 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.

Lavigne joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Players of the Year Casey Aubin (2014-15, Oyster River High School), Rob Del Signore (2013-14, Londonderry High School), Tyler Barss (2012-13, Goffstown High School), Jordan Bean (2011-12, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Jordan Cote (2010-11, Winnisquam Regional High School), Mike Montville (2009-10 & 2008-09, Portsmouth High School), Brad Zapenas (2007-08, Nashua North High School), and Brian White (2006-07, Salem 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.

###