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**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Luca Dalatri of Christian Brothers Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year. Dalatri is the first Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Christian Brothers 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 Dalatri as New Jersey's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Dalatri 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 state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Dalatri led the Colts to a 17-7 record and a berth in the South Jersey, Non-Public A tournament, scheduled to begin May 26. Also the 2015 NJ.com Baseball Player of the Year, the 6-foot-6, 255-pound senior right-handed pitcher owned a 6-0 record with a 0.17 ERA and 81 strikeouts against just two walks in 41 innings pitched through 24 games. Also a first baseman, he batted .351 with eight doubles and 12 RBI.

Dalatri has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen, as part of Hurricane Sandy relief efforts and on behalf of the Best Day Foundation for children with special needs.

"He is a great pitcher and hitter," said Justin Nathanson, head coach at rival Middletown North High. "He has not lost any ground from last year. If anything, he's gained ground. He's not just a guy that throws hard, but a very good pitcher, as he knows what he's doing in all aspects of them game."

Dalatri has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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 Dalatri joins Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Players of the Year Zach Attianese (2013-14, Old Bridge High School), Rob Kaminsky (2012-13 & 2011-12, St. Joseph Regional High School), AJ Murray (2010-11, Westfield High School), Bryan Soloman (2009-10, Jackson Memorial High School), Mike Trout (2008-09, Millville High School), Quinton Miller (2007-08, Shawnee High Schol), and Rick Porcello (2006-07, Seton Hall Preparatory 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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