

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3622)**

**ELDORADO HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Nathaniel Garley of Eldorado High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Player of the Year. Garley is the sixth Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eldorado 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 Garley as New Mexico's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Garley 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, 205-pound senior third baseman and right-handed pitcher batted .500 with eight home runs and 30 RBI, leading the Eagles (18-8) to the Class 6A quarterfinals this past season. A 2015 First Team All-State selection, Garley compiled a 7-1 record on the mound along with a 1.45 ERA and 70 strikeouts in 58 innings pitched.

Garley has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Young Life Christian ministries and as a youth baseball coach.

"Nathaniel Garley truly fits the mold of a student-athlete," said Eldorado head coach Jim Johns. "He is truly a breath of fresh air in a society that values athletic success, but seems to accept unsportsmanlike conduct as a byproduct. He has respect for everyone involved in the game and he has fun playing it."

Garley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship the University of New Mexico 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.

Garley joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Players of the Year Jared Mang (2014-15 & 2013-14, Los Alamos High School), Andre Vigil (2012-13, Volcano Vista High School), Shilo McCall (2011-12, Piedra Vista High School), Blake Swihart (2010-11, Cleveland High School), Sam Wilson (2009-10, Eldorado High School), Max Walla (2008-09, Albuquerque Academy), Wade Hinkle (2007-08, Del Norte), and Richard Bohlken (2006-07, La Cueva 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###