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**PLEASANT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Payton Henry of Pleasant Grove High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year. Henry is the first Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pleasant Grove 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 Henry as Utah's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Henry 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, 215-pound senior catcher and right-handed pitcher batted .519 with seven home runs, 31 RBI and a 1.038 slugging percentage, leading the Vikings (16-10) to the first round of the Class 5A state tournament this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Henry also posted a 2-0 record on the mound with a 2.91 ERA and 33 strikeouts in 21.2 innings pitched.

Henry has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church parish community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and in association with the educational learning program Especially For Athletes.

"Payton Henry is the real deal," said Ray Clinton, head coach at Stansbury High. "He hit the ball hard every time up at the plate. He has a strong arm and received the ball well from behind the dish."

Henry has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Henry joins recent Gatorade Utah Baseball Players of the Year Payton Henry (2014-15, Pleasant Grove High School), Colton Shaver (2013-14, Jordan High School), Riley Gates (2012-13, Snow Canyon High School), Kayden Porter (2011-12 & 2010-11, Spanish Fork High School), Adam Duke (2009-10, Spanish Fork High School), Marcus Littlewood (2008-09 & 2007-08, Pine View High School), and Tanner Robles (2006-07, Cottonwood 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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