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**FEDERAL WAY HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Christian Jones of Federal Way High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Federal Way 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 Jones as Washington's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Jones 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, 195-pound senior outfielder and first baseman batted .446 with five home runs and 23 RBI this past season, leading the Eagles (20-5) to the first round of the Class 4A regional tournament. A 2015 Under Armour All-American, Jones also scored 27 runs and compiled a .500 on-base percentage.

Jones has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth baseball coach.

"Jones is a very talented player," said Brett Jaime, head coach at Kentlake High. "His attitude and sportsmanship was always good and he is definitely a great baseball player."

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

Jones joins recent Gatorade Washington Baseball Players of the Year Cody Hawken (2014-15, Union High School), Luke Heimlich (2013-14, Puyallup High School), Reese McGuire (2012-13, Kentwood High School), Trevor Lane (2011-12, Mount Si High School), Trevor Mitsui (2010-11, Shorewood High School), Drew Vetteson (2009-10 & 2008-09, Central Kitsap High School), Rusty Shellhorn (2007-08, Central Valley High School), and Greg Peavey (2006-07, Hudson's Bay 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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