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**SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 30, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Cole Winn of Silver Creek High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year. Winn is the first Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Silver Creek 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 Winn as Colorado's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Winn joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.), Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Wash.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman High School, Tenn.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas), Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-2, 185-pound junior right-handed pitcher and first baseman posted a 9-0 record on the mound with a 0.73 ERA and 95 strikeouts in 47.2 innings this past season, leading the Raptors (16-7) to the second round of the Class 4A state tournament. Ranked as the nation's No. 31 recruit in the Class of 2018 by Perfect Game, Winn also batted .388 with two home runs and 19 RBI while producing a .686 slugging percentage.

Winn has volunteered locally on behalf of the Silver Creek Leadership Academy and as a youth baseball coach. "Cole Winn is an extremely talented baseball player with a special skill set," said Silver Creek head coach Mike Apodaca. "His biggest strength is his pitching prowess. He gives us a legitimate shot to win every time he throws. He is very competitive but still enjoys the game and has fun."

Winn has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball at Mississippi State University on scholarship beginning in the fall of 2018.

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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Winn joins recent Gatorade Colorado Baseball Players of the Year Paul Tillotson (2015-16, Lewis-Palmer High School), Ryan Madden (2014-15, Fairview High School), Max George (2013-14, Regis Jesuit High School), Griffin Jax (2012-13, Cherry Creek High School), Ryan Warner (2011-12, Pine Creek High School), Greg Bird (2010-11, Grandview High School), Marco Gonzales (2009-10, Rocky Mountain High School), Bryan Peters (2008-09, Rocky Mountain High school), Andy Burns (2007-08, Rocky Mountain High School), and Matt Presley (2006-07, Cheyenne Mountain High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Cole will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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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