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**APPOQUINIMINK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Ryan Steckline of Appoquinimink High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Delaware Baseball Player of the Year. Steckline is the first Gatorade Delaware Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Appoquinimink 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 Steckline as Delaware's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Steckline 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-4, 215-pound senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman had led the Jaguars to a 16-3 record and a berth in the state tournament at the time of his selection. Steckline posted a 3-2 record on the mound with one save, a 1.33 ERA and 55 strikeouts in 36.2 innings through 19 games. A 2016 First Team All-Conference selection, he was batting .390 with 10 RBI and a .561 slugging percentage entering the postseason.

Steckline volunteered locally to collect more than \$20,000 worth of sporting goods to donate to athletes in need and was nominated for Nike's I Am Sport award. "Ryan Steckline is an outstanding player in all facets of the game," said Appoquinimink High head coach Billy Cunningham. "He has been a consistent run producer in the middle of our lineup and has been our go-to pitcher in big games his entire career."

Steckline has maintained a 3.5 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Monmouth 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 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.

Steckline joins recent Gatorade Delaware Baseball Players of the Year Jordan Hutchins (2015-16, Dover High School), Brandon Fraley (2014-15, Caravel Academy), Dominic DiSabatino (2013-14, St. Mark's High School), Pete Grasso (2012-13, A.I. duPont High School), Mitchell Moore (2011-12, Dover High School), Lincoln Lamberton (2010-11, Salesianum School), Taylor Mahoney (2009-10, St. Mark's High School), Eric Buckland (2008-09, Caravel Academy), and Derrik Gibson (2007-08 & 2006-07, Seaford High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Ryan 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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