

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

**BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 30, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jordon "Jo" Adell of Ballard High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year. Adell is the second Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ballard 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 Adell as Kentucky's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Adell 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-3, 210-pound senior outfielder had led the Bruins to a 23-11 record with the state tournament slated to begin June 8 at the time of his selection. Adell batted .554 with 24 home runs, 60 RBI and a 1.434 slugging percentage through 34 games. Ranked as the nation's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2017 by Perfect Game and No. 8 by Baseball America, he was the 2016 Area Code Games Home Run Derby Champion.

Adell has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs. "Jo Adell is an incredible athlete," said Ballard High head coach David Trager. "He brings so much to the table with his skill set but also is one of our best leaders. He has been everything that you could ask for in a senior and as a leader."

Adell has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Louisville this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in June's Major League Baseball draft.

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.

Adell joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Players of the Year Jaren Shelby (2015-16, Tates Creek High School), Caleb Bruner (2014-15, Logan County High School), Kaleb Duckworth (2013-14, Henderson County High School), Drew Harrington (2012-13, Central Hardin High School), Ryne Combs (2011-12, Bryan Station High School), Zach Lucas (2010-11, Butler Traditional High School), Trevor Gott (2009-10, Tates Creek High School), Luke Maile (2008-09, Covington Catholic High School), Robbie Ross (2007-08, Lexington Christian Academy), and Ben Revere (2006-07, Lexington Catholic High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jordon "Jo" 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###