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**DETROIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Steve Mann of Detroit Country Day School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year. Mann is the first Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Detroit Country Day 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 Mann as Michigan's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Mann 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, 210-pound senior outfielder and right-handed pitcher had led the Yellowjackets to a 15-4 record and a berth in the Division II district tournament at the time of his selection. Mann batted .541 with five home runs, 21 RBI and a 1.154 slugging percentage through 19 games. Ranked as the state's No. 2 recruit in the Class of 2017 by Perfect Game, he also posted a 3-0 record on the mound with a 0.50 ERA and 19 strikeouts in 14 innings.

Mann has volunteered locally on behalf of Angels' Place, the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries and as a youth baseball coach. "Steve Mann is a five-tool baseball player and the best one ever to play at our school," said Detroit Country Day head coach Steve Lepkowski. "His impact on our program is unmatched by any student-athlete I have had the pleasure of coaching over the last 17 years."

Mann has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Duke 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.

Mann joins recent Gatorade Michigan Baseball Players of the Year Tommy Henry (2015-16, Portage Northern High School), Luke Shilling (2014-15, Notre Dame Preparatory School), Kory Young (2013-14, Rockford High School), Jackson Lamb (2012-13, Bedford High School), Brett Sunde (2011-12, Bishop Foley Catholic High School), Joel Seddon (2010-11, St. Clair High School), Jack Livingston (2009-10, Portage Northern High School), Pat Biondi (2008-09, Divine Child High School), Tyler Mills (2007-08, Mt. Pleasant High School), and D.J. LeMahieu (2006-07, Brother Rice High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Steve 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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