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**BILOXI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Trey Shaffer of Biloxi High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year. Shaffer is the first Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Biloxi 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 Shaffer as Mississippi's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Shaffer 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-1, 180-pound senior left-handed pitcher and outfielder posted an 8-1 record on the mound with a 1.20 ERA and 106 strikeouts in 64.1 innings this past season, leading the Indians to a 22-10 record and the Class 6A quarterfinals. A 2016 First Team All-State selection, Shaffer also batted .380 with four home runs, 31 RBI and a .641 slugging percentage.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Shaffer has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school literacy-outreach program, a food bank and as a youth baseball coach. "Trey Shaffer is a wonderful competitor with great pitches," said Anthony DeWitt, head coach at Hancock High. "He has always had good composure on the mound when he has faced us through the years."

Shaffer has maintained an 86.3 average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Southeastern Louisiana 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.

Shaffer joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Players of the Year Jason Barber (2015-16 & 2014-15, Oxford High School), Austin Riley (2013-14, DeSoto Central High School), Reid Humphreys (2012-13, Northwest Rankin High School), Anthony Alford (2011-12, Petal High School), Mason Robbins (2010-11, George County High School), Brayden Jones (2009-10, Madison Central High School), Darren Farmer (2008-09, West Lauderdale High School), Rashun Dixon (2007-08, Terry High School), and Paxton Pace (2006-07, West Lauderdale High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Trey 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.