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**BISHOP GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Austin Wells of Bishop Gorman High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Nevada Baseball Player of the Year. Wells is the seventh Gatorade Nevada Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Gorman 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 Wells as Nevada's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Wells 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, 195-pound junior first baseman, shortstop and designated hitter batted .500 with eight home runs, 47 RBI and a .936 slugging percentage this past season, leading the Gaels to a 30-7 record and the Class 4A semifinals. Ranked as the state's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2018 by Perfect Game, Wells also produced a .596 on-base percentage and stole nine bases without being caught.

Wells has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs. "From a purely baseball talent standpoint, Austin Wells was one of the best players that I saw all season," said Mike O'Rourke, head coach at Bonanza High. "He plays the game the right way on the field."

Wells has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball at the University of Arizona 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.

Wells joins recent Gatorade Nevada Baseball Players of the Year Nick Quintana (2015-16, Arbor View High School), Cadyn Grenier (2014-15, Bishop Gorman High School), Cooper Powell (2013-14, Centennial High School), Kenny Meimerstorf (2012-13, Bishop Gorman High School), Joey Gallo (2011-12, Bishop Gorman High School), Jake Hager (2010-11, Sierra Vista High School), Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School), Jeff Malm (2008-09 & 2007-08, Bishop Gorman High School, and Taylor Cole (2006-07, Bishop Gorman High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Austin 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.