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## **OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Brennen Oxford of Oyster River High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year. Oxford is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oyster River 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 Oxford as New Hampshire's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Oxford 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 junior left-handed pitcher and outfielder authored four consecutive no-hitters and had led the Bobcats to an 8-4 record at the time of his selection. Oxford owned a 4-1 record with a 0.21 ERA through 12 games along with with a .452 batting average, eight RBI and 12 stolen bases. He had surrendered just two hits in 34 innings pitched, while striking out 55 batters. A First Team All-State honoree as a sophomore, he was also a member of the Fosters Daily Democrat Dream Team.

Oxford has volunteered locally on behalf of his school's Unified Sports programs and the End 68 Hours of Hunger nutritional initiative. "Oxford is as good as anyone I've seen in the last 10 years," said Josh Coughlin, head coach at Pembroke Academy. "He attacks the zone with a fastball, curve and change and he doesn't give the hitter much of a chance. He's been on a really remarkable run and I'd put him up against anyone in any division."

Oxford has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Oxford joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Players of the Year Grant Lavigne (2015-16, Bedford High School), Casey Aubin (2014-15, Oyster River High School), Rob Del Signore (2013-14, Londonderry High School), Tyler Barss (2012-13, Goffstown High School), Jordan Bean (2011-12, St. Thomas Aquinas High School), Jordan Cote (2010-11, Winnisquam Regional High School), Mike Montville (2009-10 & 2008-09, Portsmouth High School), Brad Zapenas (2007-08, Nashua North High School), and Brian White (2006-07, Salem High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Brennen 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).

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