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## **WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 Tim Tawa of West Linn High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year. Tawa is the first Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Linn 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 Tawa as Oregon's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Tawa 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, 180-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher had led the Lions to a 23-4 record and a berth in the Class 6A state tournament at the time of his selection. Tawa batted .434 with four home runs and 20 RBI through 27 games, amassing a .754 slugging percentage. A three-time Gatorade Oregon Football Player of the Year—the only three-time state football honoree in the Gatorade award's 32-year history—he also posted a 5-1 record on the mound with a 0.69 ERA and 43 strikeouts in 33.1 innings entering the postseason.

A member of the West Linn High math and science clubs, Tawa has volunteered locally as a mentor to incoming freshmen and as a youth football and baseball coach. "Tim Tawa is a great competitor on the field," said J.J. Stolsig, head coach at Canby High. "The confidence he demonstrates on the field rubs off on his teammates. He plays the game the right way by hustling and playing hard. He is someone you want your older guys and younger guys to watch so they can try to emulate his approach to the game."

Tawa has maintained a 4.17 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Stanford 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.

Tawa joins recent Gatorade Oregon Baseball Players of the Year Adley Rutschman (2015-16, Sherwood High School), Jacob Bennett (2014-15, Tualatin High School), Elliott Cary (2013-14, Clackamas High School), Austin Kelly (2012-13, Clackamas High School), Carson Kelly (2011-12 & 2010-11, Westview High School), Ben Wetzler (2009-10, Clackamas High School), Matt Maurer (2008-09, North Medford High School), Ryan Gorton (2007-08, Tigard High School), and Joey Mahalic (2006-07, Wilson High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Tim 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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