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**SOUTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Sam Kenyon of South Kingstown High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year. Kenyon is the second Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Kingstown 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 Kenyon as Rhode Island's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Kenyon 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, 185-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Rebels to a 14-3 record at the time of his selection. Kenyon owned a 3-0 record on the mound with two saves and a 1.71 earned run average in 16.1 innings pitched, striking out 16 with just one walk thru 17 games. At the plate, Kenyon owned a .382 batting average with two home runs, 17 runs scored, 17 runs batted in and a .477 on-base percentage. He was a second-team All-State selection as a junior.

Kenyon has volunteered locally at a nursing home and as a youth baseball coach. "Sam beats the coaches to the field and is always there an hour early working on his game," said Jim Sauro, head coach of South Kingstown High. "He understands how to prepare for a game and a season."

Kenyon has maintained a weighted 3.56 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Wheaton College, where he will play baseball, beginning 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.

Kenyon joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Players of the Year Mason Feole (2015-16, The Prout School), Gian Martellini (2014-15 & 2013-14, Bishop Hendricken High School), Mike King (2012-13, Bishop Hendricken High School), David Hopkins (2011-12, East Greenwich High School), Harrison Barlow (2010-11, South Kingstown High School), Anthony Aceto (2009-10, North Providence High School), Ryan Morris (2008-09, North Kingstown High School), and Ryan Westmoreland (2007-08 & 2006-07, Portsmouth High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Sam 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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