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Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3622)

**COLLEYVILLE HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Alex Scherff of Colleyville Heritage High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year. Scherff is the first Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Colleyville Heritage 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 Scherff as Texas's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Scherff 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, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher had led the Panthers to a 35-4-1 record and a berth in the Class 5A regional semifinals at the time of his selection. Scherff posted an 8-0 record on the mound with a 0.44 ERA and 89 strikeouts in 48 innings through 40 games. Ranked as the nation's No. 15 recruit in the Class of 2017 by Perfect Game, he has thrown a pair of no-hitters this season and held opposing hitters to a .119 batting average entering the regional round of four.

An accomplished pianist, Scherff has volunteered locally on behalf of his church community and as a youth baseball coach. "In my eight years of coaching, I can honestly say I have never competed against another high school student like Alex Scherff," said Bryan Naradovy, head coach at Eastern Hills High. "I know when we faced him he was throwing roughly 95-96 mph into the wind. Even so, he remained very composed throughout the game."

Scherff has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Texas A&M University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in June's Major League Baseball draft.

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.

Scherff joins recent Gatorade Texas Baseball Players of the Year Kyle Muller (2015-16, Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas), Luken Baker (2014-15, Oak Ridge High School), Tyler Kolek (2013-14, Shepherd High School), Kohl Stewart (2012-13, St. Pius X High School), Courtney Hawkins (2011-12, Carroll High School), Josh Bell (2010-11, Jesuit College Preparatory School), Jameson Taillon (2009-10, The Woodlands High School), Shelby Miller (2008-09, Brownwood High School), Taylor Jungmann (2007-08, Georgetown High School), and Blake Beavan (2006-07, Irving High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Alex 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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