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**ORANGE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 29, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Cole Winn of Orange Lutheran High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year. Winn is the first Gatorade California Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Orange Lutheran 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 Winn as California's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Winn 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 and first baseman had led the Lancers to a 23-7 record and the Division I Southern Section Open Division second round at the time of his selection. The 2016-17 Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year, Winn, a transfer student, owned a 7-2 record on the mound with a 0.23 ERA through 30 games. In 62 innings pitched, Winn has struck out 101 batters and walked just nine while limiting opponents to a batting average of just .113. Offensively, Winn owned a .270 batting average with four home runs, 21 RBI, 14 runs and 12 walks entering the postseason's second round. He is ranked as the No. 10 recruit in the Class of 2018 by Perfect Game and the No. 16 MLB Draft prospect by Baseball America.

Winn has volunteered locally with the Challenger Little League program as well as taking part in the Orange County Buddy Walk with the Down Syndrome Association of Orange County. He has also donated his time as a youth baseball coach.

"Cole is everything that you hear he is," said John Weber, head coach at Cypress High. "When you're a pitcher and can do the things he has done, along with the offensive numbers, to me, it's not even close."

Winn has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at Mississippi State University this fall, but is projected as a first-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.

Winn joins recent Gatorade California Baseball Players of the Year Royce Lewis (2016-17, JSerra Catholic High School), Mickey Moniak (2015-16, La Costa Canyon High School), Joe DeMers (2014-15, College Park High School), Jack Flaherty (2013-14, Harvard-Westlake School), Carlos Salazar (2012-13, Kerman High School), Ty Moore (2011-12, Mater Dei High School), Robert Stephenson (2010-11, Alhambra High School), Dylan Covey (2009-10, Maranatha High School), Matt Hobgood (2008-09, Norco High School), Kyle Skipworth (2007-08, Patriot High School), and Josh Vitters (2006-07, Cypress High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Cole 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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