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**CAPE HENLOPEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Zack Gelof of Cape Henlopen High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Delaware Baseball Player of the Year. Gelof is the third Gatorade Delaware Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cape Henlopen 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 Gelof as Delaware's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Gelof 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-3, 210-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher had led the Vikings to a 15-3 record and a berth in the state tournament at the time of his selection. Gelof produced a .448 batting average with six home runs, 16 RBI, 29 runs and 24 stolen bases in as many attempts through 18 games. Drawing 12 walks, he compiled a .562 on-base percentage along with an .879 slugging percentage. On the mound, the 2017 Henlopen Conference Player of the Year posted a 4-0 record with a 0.59 ERA and 30 strikeouts in 23.2 innings pitched entering the postseason.

The Cape Henlopen High class president for each of the last four years, Gelof has donated his time as a summer youth baseball camp counselor. As a National Honor Society and Cape Henlopen Leo Club member, he has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service endeavors.

"Zack's the best player in the state, no doubt," said Billy Cunningham, head coach at Appoquinimink High School. "For them, defensively he runs the show at shortstop, offensively he can hit for power or bunt for a base hit. An absolutely complete player."

Gelof has maintained a weighted 4.02 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Gelof joins recent Gatorade Delaware Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Steckline (2016-17, Appoquinimink High School), Jordan Hutchins (2015-16, Dover High School), Brandon Fraley (2014-15, Caravel Academy), Dominic DiSabatino (2013-14, St. Mark's High School), Pete Grasso (2012-13, A.I. duPont High School), Mitchell Moore (2011-12, Dover High School), Lincoln Lamberton (2010-11, Salesianum School), Taylor Mahoney (2009-10, St. Mark's High School), Eric Buckland (2008-09, Caravel Academy), and Derrik Gibson (2007-08 & 2006-07, Seaford High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Zack 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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