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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 29, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Zach Tsakounis of St. John's College High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year. Tsakounis is the fourteenth Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Tsakounis as District of Columbia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Tsakounis 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, 170-pound senior left-handed pitcher and centerfielder batted .370 with 16 RBI, 23 runs scored, 15 stolen bases and a .562 on-base percentage this past season, leading the Cadets (26-6) to a fifth consecutive Washington Catholic Athletic Conference title. On the mound, he posted a 2-1 record with a 1.23 earned run average, fanning 32 batters while surrendering just 13 hits and seven walks in 22 innings pitched. A two-time First-Team All-WCAC selection, Tsakounis threw a complete-game shutout in Game 2 of the best-of-three WCAC championship series and hit three doubles in the deciding Game 3.

Tsakounis has volunteered locally with a Catholic Youth Organization basketball team and he has donated his time visiting and working with the elderly at Knollwood Military Retirement Community.

"Zach Tsakounis absolutely stood out against us both at the plate and on the mound," said Joe Palumbo, head coach at Archbishop Spalding High School. "He really is a complete player."

Tsakounis has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the College of William & Mary.

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.

Tsakounis joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Players of the Year Jack Roberts (2016-17, St. John's College High School), Cam Remalia (2015-16, St. John's College High School), A.J. Lee (2014-15 & 2013-14, St. John's College High School), Andrew Culp (2012-13, Maret School), Danny O'Donnell (2011-12, St. John's College High School), Mark Williams (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Michael Bowie (2009-10, St. John's College High School), Matt Bowman (2008-09, St. Albans School), Danny Hultzen (2007-08, St. Albans School), and L.J. Hoes (2006-07, St. John's College High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Zach 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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