

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA 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 Nicholas Schnell of Roncalli High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Indiana Baseball Player of the Year. Schnell is the first Gatorade Indiana Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Roncalli 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 Schnell as Indiana's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Schnell 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, 190-pound senior centerfields had led the Rebels (22-5) to a berth in the Class 4A sectional semifinals at the time of his selection. Schnell batted .522 (35-for-67) with 10 home runs, 24 RBI and 37 runs scored through 27 games. Schnell also walked 28 times and cranked three triples to elevate his on-base percentage to .657 entering the postseason, in addition to swiping 16 bases in as many attempts. A participant in the 2017 Perfect Game All-American Classic, Schnell is ranked No. 16 in Baseball America's Top High School Prospects list.

Schnell has volunteered locally with the Catholic Youth Organization through the St. Roch Catholic Church, helping provide meals for the homeless at Thanksgiving and working with the Giving Tree program, which provides gifts to the less fortunate during the holiday season. He also has donated his time as a mentor at CYO sporting events.

"(Schnell) is the best position player I've seen this year, for sure," said Ryan Feyerabend, head coach at Franklin Community High. "He can do it all."

Schnell has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Louisville 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.

Schnell joins recent Gatorade Indiana Baseball Players of the Year Garrett Schoenle (2016-17, Northrop High School), T.J. Collett (2015-16, Terre Haute North Vigo High School), Ashe Russell (2014-15 & 2013-14, Cathedral High School), Trey Ball (2012-13, New Castle High School), Will Coursen-Carr (2011-12, South Side High School), Dillon Peters (2010-11, Cathedral High School), Justin O'Conner (2009-10, Cowan High School), Cameron Perkins (2008-09, Southport High School), Alex Meyer (2007-08, Greensburg Community High School), and Jarrod Parker (2006-07, Norwell High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Nicholas 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/>.

###