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**JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IOWA 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 Connor Van Scoyoc of Jefferson High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year. Van Scoyoc is the first Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jefferson 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 Van Scoyoc as Iowa's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Van Scoyoc 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-5, 220-pound senior right-handed pitcher posted a 5-0 record with a 0.96 earned run average for the J-Hawks last season. In 42.2 innings pitched, Van Scoyoc struck out 44 batters while allowing just 29 hits and nine walks, limiting opponents to a batting average of .161. At the plate, Van Scoyoc drove in 17 runs and drew 17 walks. A 2018 Rawlings-Perfect Game Honorable Mention All-American and an All-Central Region First Team selection in 2018, he is rated as the nation's No. 115 prospect in the Class of 2018 by Perfect Game.

A National Honor Society member, Van Scoyoc has volunteered locally with St. Jude's Catholic Church. He also has donated his time cleaning up baseball fields and mentoring young players with the Norway Baseball Association.

"Connor is a terrific kid as well as a very deserving ballplayer," said Bret Hoyer, head coach at Cedar Rapids Kennedy High School. "I recommend him 100 percent."

Van Scoyoc has maintained a weighted 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at Arizona State University 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.

Van Scoyoc joins recent Gatorade Iowa Baseball Players of the Year John Swanda (2016-17, Roosevelt High School), Grant Judkins (2015-16, Pella High School), Robert Neustrom (2014-15, North High School), Keaton McKinney (2013-14, Ankeny High School), Dom Thompson-Williams (2012-13, Sioux City East High School), Calvin Mathews (2011-12, Davis County High School), Austin Christensen (2010-11, Kennedy High School), Damek Tomscha (2009-10, North High School), Dean McArdle (2008-09, North High School), B.J. Hermsen (2007-08, West Delaware High School), and Jon Gilmore (2006-07, Iowa City High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Connor 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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