

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729-3685)

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Seth Halvorsen of Heritage Christian Academy as its 2017-18 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year. Halvorsen is the first Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Heritage Christian Academy.

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 Halvorsen as Minnesota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Halvorsen 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, 200-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop had led the Eagles to a 13-2 record at the time of his selection. Halvorsen compiled a 4-0 record with a 1.22 ERA through 15 games to go with a .395 batting average, 21 runs scored and 11 RBI. He had surrendered just 11 hits in 23 innings pitched while striking out 54 batters. A First Team All-State honoree, he is also a Rawlings/Perfect Game First Team All-American and was selected to USA TODAY's American Family Insurance ALL-USA Minnesota First Team.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Halvorsen has assisted with a pre-kindergarten classroom and has volunteered locally on behalf of a prom for special needs students.

"Halvorsen is the best pitcher we've faced in the six years I've coached here," said Dave Darr, head coach at New Life Academy. "He throws 95 miles per hour and he has a slider that is equally as devastating. He can run and hit as well as he throws, and he's as gifted an athlete as we've seen."

Halvorsen has maintained a 3.11 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Missouri 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.

Halvorsen joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Sam Carlson (2016-17, Burnsville High School), Nick Hanson (2015-16, Prior Lake High School), Eduardo Estrada (2014-15, Litchfield High School), Sam Hentges (2013-14, Mounds View High School), Logan Shore (2012-13, Coon Rapids High School), Mitch Brown (2011-12, Century High School), Rob Youngdahl (2010-11, Hill-Murray School), Chris Anderson (2009-10, Centennial High School), Ryan Abrahamson (2008-09, Tartan High School), Brad Hand (2007-08, Chaska High School), and Mike Kvasnicka (2006-07, Lakeville North High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

###