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**CREIGHTON PREP STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Dylan Phillips of Creighton Prep as its 2017-18 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year. Phillips is the third Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Creighton Prep.

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 Phillips as Nebraska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Phillips 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, 195-pound senior left-handed pitcher and outfielder led the Junior Jays to a 26-5 record and their third consecutive Class A state championship this past season. Phillips posted a 9-1 record with a 1.98 ERA on the mound, along with a .557 batting average, five home runs and 39 RBI at the plate. A First Team Super State honoree, he was selected to USA TODAY's American Family Insurance ALL-USA Nebraska First Team.

A peer tutor in his school, Phillips has volunteered locally on behalf of the Open Door Mission.

"Dylan Phillips is a very tough competitor," said Jason Shockey, head coach at Bellevue West High. "He's got good presence, both on the mound and at the plate. He has command of three pitches and can effectively change speeds. He gets after it in all facets of the game."

Phillips has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Kansas 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.

Phillips joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Austin Schultz (2016-17, Norris High School), Cole Stobbe (2015-16 & 2014-15, Millard West High School), Jakson Reetz (2013-14 & 2012-13, Norris High School), Nate Griep (2011-12, Millard West High School), Casey Gillaspie (2010-11, Millard North High School), Logan Ehlers (2009-10 & 2008-09, Nebraska City High School), Kash Kalkowski (2007-08, Grand Island Senior High School), and Matt Freeman (2006-07, Elkhorn High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

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