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**JESSE CARSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Owen White of Jesse Carson High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade North Carolina Baseball Player of the Year. White is the first Gatorade North Carolina Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesse Carson 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 White as North Carolina's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, White 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-3, 185-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop produced a 10-1 record with a 0.22 earned run average this past season, leading the Cougars (24-6) to the Class 3A West state tournament semifinals. White struck out 101 batters while allowed just 28 hits and 15 walks in 63.2 innings pitched. At the plate, White posted a .333 batting average with 10 doubles, 25 runs scored and a .569 slugging percentage. He concluded his prep baseball career as Carson's all-time leader in hits, runs, RBI, doubles, wins and strikeouts.

White has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and he has donated his time to multiple community-service initiatives through his church youth group.

"Owen White is the best pitcher we faced this year," said Brian Hightower, head coach of East Rowan High. "Owen does all the little things on the mound that make him even better as a pitcher. His pick-off move is ridiculous and he fields his position like no other."

White has maintained a weighted 4.14 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

White joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Baseball Players of the Year MacKenzie Gore (2016-17, Whiteville High School), Logan Davidson (2015-16, Providence High School), Max Wotell (2014-15, Marvin Ridge High School), Braxton Davidson (2013-14, T.C. Roberson), Ryder Jones (2012-13, Watauga High School), Corey Seager (2011-12, Northwest Cabarrus High School), Dillon Maples (2010-11, Pinecrest High School), Matt Roberts (2009-10, Graham), Brian Goodwin (2008-09, Rocky Mount), Tyler Hanover (2007-08, North Davidson), and Madison Bumgarner (2006-07, South Caldwell) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Owen 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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