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**MASON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Nick Northcut of Mason High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year. Northcut is the first Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mason 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 Northcut as Ohio's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Northcut 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-1, 205-pound senior third baseman and right-handed pitcher had led the Comets (22-5) to the Division I regional semifinals at the time of his selection. Northcut batted .379 (30-for-79) with three home runs, 19 RBI, 26 walks and a .537 on-base percentage through 27 games. On the mound, he produced a 2-1 record with three saves and a 1.44 ERA, striking out 30 batters in 25 innings pitched. A three-time First-Team Greater Miami Conference selection and two-time First-Team All-Ohio honoree, Northcut is ranked No. 36 in Baseball America's list of Top High School Prospects.

Northcut has volunteered locally with the Challenger League, a baseball organization for children with special needs. He has also donated his time as an instructor for local youth baseball teams.

"I think Northcut is really good because of his abilities both as a hitter and on the mound," said Brian Sakowski, National Scouting Supervisor for Perfect Game USA. "I could easily see him playing both ways (in college)."

Northcut has maintained a 3.34 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University 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.

Northcut joins recent Gatorade Ohio Baseball Players of the Year Michael Kirian (2016-17, New Riegel High School), Chris Machamer (2015-16, Washington High School), Ryan Feltner (2014-15, Walsh Jesuit High School), Cameron Varga (2013-14, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy), Andrew Benintendi (2012-13, Madeira High School), Adam Schaly (2011-12, Ashland High School), Taylore Cherry (2010-11, Butler High School), David Whitehead (2009-10, Moeller), Tyler Skulina (2008-09, Walsh Jesuit High School), Ryan Curl (2007-08, St. Francis DeSales), and Derek Dietrich (2006-07, St. Ignatius) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Nick 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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