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**SELAH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Carter Young of Selah High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year. Young is the first Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Selah 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 Young as Washington's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Young 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, 165-pound junior shortstop, catcher and right-handed pitcher posted a .412 batting average with four home runs and 47 runs scored this past season, leading the Vikings (20-3) to the second round of the Class 2A state tournament. Young also knocked out eight doubles and five triples, stole eight bases and knocked in 26 runs. He maintained a .519 on-base percentage and a .765 slugging percentage. On the mound, he owned a 1-0 record with one save and a 0.00 earned run average, striking out 15 and in 10.1 innings pitched. Rated as the No. 19 recruit in the Class of 2019 by Perfect Game, he won a gold medal with the USA Baseball team at the 2017 U-18 World Cup in Canada.

Young has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach.

"Carter Young's poise and composure are what separate him," said Sonny Garza, head coach of Othello High. "The way he goes about his business at the plate is very composed. His play at the shortstop position is also very smooth and consistent. He understands the game and knows what he needs to do in different situations."

Young has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to play baseball on scholarship at Vanderbilt University beginning in the fall of 2019.

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.

Young joins recent Gatorade Washington Baseball Players of the Year Jesse Franklin (2016-17, Seattle Prep), Christian Jones (2015-16, Federal Way High School), Cody Hawken (2014-15, Union High School), Luke Heimlich (2013-14, Puyallup High School), Reese McGuire (2012-13, Kentwood High School), Trevor Lane (2011-12, Mount Si High School), Trevor Mitsui (2010-11, Shorewood High School), Drew Vetteson (2009-10 & 2008-09, Central Kitsap), Rusty Shellhorn (2007-08, Central Valley), and Greg Peavey (2006-07, Hudson's Bay) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Carter 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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