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**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 30, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jack Roberts of St. John's College High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year. Roberts is the fourteenth Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 Roberts as District of Columbia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Roberts 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, 195-pound senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher led the Cadets to a 24-7 record and their fourth consecutive Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship this past season, batting .337 with five home runs, 26 RBI and a 1.074 OPS. The 2017 WCAC Player of the Year, he also posted a 3-0 record on the mound with four saves, holding opposing hitters to a .138 batting average en route to a 0.64 ERA.

Roberts has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball programs and completed a service mission trip in association with his church. "Jack Roberts was the best player for the best team in our area," said Michael Olerta, head coach at Bishop Ireton High. "Defensively he was a very strong fielder and a fantastic pitcher, as well."

Roberts has maintained a 3.23 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Elon 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.

Roberts joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Players of the Year Cam Remalia (2015-16, St. John's College High School), A.J. Lee (2014-15 & 2013-14, St. John's College High School), Andrew Culp (2012-13, Maret School), Danny O'Donnell (2011-12, St. John's College High School), Mark Williams (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Michael Bowie (2009-10, St. John's College High School), Matt Bowman (2008-09, St. Albans School), Danny Hultzen (2007-08, St. Albans School), and L.J. Hoes (2006-07, St. John's College High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jack 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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