**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Youth 1st Team Award

## Presented to: Delano 14/15A Baseball team

**(Owatonna, MN) (July, 2018)** – The Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club in partnership with Youth 1st, Federated Insurance, Jostens, Pearson, Cashwise, Bennerotte & Associates, Jaguar Communications, The Retrofit Companies, US Bank, Plaza Morena, Great River Energy and the Minnesota Twins Community Fund have selected the **Delano 14/15A Baseball** **team** as the recipient of a Youth 1st Team Award for their outstanding sportsmanship during the 2018 Owatonna Baseball Tournaments.

The Youth 1st Team Award recognizes positive behavior from players, coaches and everyone associated with the team (parents, fans and spectators). “We are placing the emphasis on how you play the game, which is ultimately more important than if you win or lose.” said Mark Arjes, Founder/Director of Youth 1st. “It has become increasingly difficult to find and retain coaches and officials for youth sports because of the abuse that they take during games. We believe it is time to model and encourage values-based actions, creating what we call a Conduct 1st environment where the focus is on the kids, competitive energies are kept in check and officials and opponents are respected.”

About Youth 1st, Inc.: ([www.youth1st.com](http://www.youth1st.com)) @Youth1stMN on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

The Youth 1st Team Award was created by working with umpires and tournament directors.  The umpires provide a team selection vote after each game during the tournament based on the conduct and sportsmanship exhibited by coaches, players and fans.  Teams with a positive selection to game ratio of 80% or higher are recognized as Youth 1st Teams. Teams are presented with a plaque and certificates PLUS tickets for all players and coaches to attend and be recognized at a Minnesota Twins home game at Target Field. The mission of Youth 1st is to connect Conduct, Character and Community to youth activity programs. Youth 1st is a 501(c)(3)non-profit organization headquartered in Owatonna, MN. Youth 1st is an official Playball! MN Partner.

About the Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club: (www.owatonnabaseball.com)

The Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club has a history of providing a values-based competitive baseball experience for the youth it serves. The philosophy is to provide each participant the opportunity and encouragement to pursue their own level of excellence within the context of baseball, a team sport. Program Goals: Create a Positive Environment, Have Fun & Teach the Game of Baseball, Teach Life Lessons, Create Enthusiastic Culture

About the Twins Community Fund: (www.twinscommunityfund.org)

Established as a nonprofit organization in 1991, the mission of the Twins Community Fund is to enrich local and regional communities by providing resources for the healthy development of children and families through an association with baseball, softball and the Minnesota Twins. The Twins Community Fund is governed by a board of directors representative of the Upper Midwest. For more information or to make a contribution visit [www.twinscommunityfund.org](http://www.twinscommunityfund.org).