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**MILLARD NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Casey Gillaspie of Millard North High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year. Gillaspie is the third Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard North 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 Gillaspie as Nebraska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gillaspie joins an elite alumni association of past state baseball award winners, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Roy Halladay (1994-95, Arvada West HS, Colo.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman HS, Tenn.), Chipper Jones (1989-90, Bolles School, Fla.), Derek Lee (1992-93, El Camino HS, Calif.) and John Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 6-foot-4, 220-pound senior first baseman and outfielder batted .515 along with 55 RBI, 48 runs scored, 14 doubles, seven home runs and four triples this season, leading the Mustangs (22-11) to the Class A state semifinals. An ESPN RISE Southwest Region Baseball Player of the Week, Gillaspie produced a .932 slugging percentage and .614 on-base percentage. Also a right-handed pitcher, he finished 7-2 on the mound with a 2.21 ERA and 45 strikeouts in 50.2 innings. A returning Second Team Lincoln Journal Star Super-State and Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska selection, Gillaspie hit .486 as a junior. He also batted .477 for his American Legion team, the Deeb Mustangs, this past summer.

Gillaspie has maintained a 3.21 GPA in the classroom. In addition to volunteering on behalf of his church, he has donated his time as a youth baseball instructor.

"He is an extremely talented player and understands the game better than most high schoolers," said Kevin Koch, head coach of rival Omaha Burke High. "He is not a flashy player. He just does his job. I think he's a fine representative of Nebraska baseball."

Gillaspie has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Wichita State 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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Gillaspie joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Logan Ehlers (2009-10, Nebraska City), Logan Ehlers (2008-09; Nebraska City), Kash Kalkowski (2007-08, Grand Island Senior), and Matt Freeman (2006-07, Elkhorn), among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. 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 [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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