

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**JUNEAU-DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Dylan Baker of Juneau-Douglas High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year. Baker is the first Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Juneau-Douglas 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 Baker as Alaska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Baker 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-3, 185-pound senior right-handed pitcher started 6-1 with a 1.29 ERA this season, recording 61 strikeouts in 32.2 innings and leading the Crimson Bears (19-5) to the state tournament, scheduled to begin June 3. A returning All-Southeast Conference honoree, Baker owned a .458 batting average with 36 runs scored, 29 RBI, 13 home runs and six doubles through 24 games. As a sophomore in 2008, he helped lead Juneau-Douglas to the state title.

Also a basketball standout, Baker has maintained a 3.38 unweighted GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's Club Expedition, he has also donated his time locally by preparing and serving food at multiple homeless shelters.

"He's been on a roll," said Dave Price, head coach of rival Ketchikan High. "He's hitting the ball well, and he's doing what his team needs him to do in the leadoff spot. He's also probably the best pitcher in the state of Alaska. At the plate, he's a tough out. He adjusts well. As a leadoff hitter, he has the ability to hit the ball out of the ballpark at any given time, and he puts the ball in the gaps. As far as pitching goes, he mixes up his fastball and curveball well. He's very effective."

Baker remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Baker joins recent Gatorade Alaska Baseball Players of the Year Ross Venneberg (2008-09, Sitka), Joe Kohan (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas) and Ryan Skillern (2006-07, South) 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).

###