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**FAIRHOPE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 2, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Daryl Norris of Fairhope High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year. Norris is the first Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fairhope 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 Norris as Alabama's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Norris 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-1 senior right-handed pitcher finished with an 11-2 record and a 2.31 ERA on the mound, recording 108 strikeouts in 78.2 innings this past season to lead the Pirates (35-9) to the Class 5A state semifinals. A Louisville Slugger Pre-Season First Team All-American selection, Norris, also a first baseman, batted .444 with 67 runs scored, 65 RBI, 13 doubles and 11 home runs. Also the returning Player of the Year as named by the *Mobile Press Register*, he participated in the 2009 East Coast Professional Showcase last summer.

Also a football standout, Norris has maintained a 3.54 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered as an instructor for youth football and baseball athletes.

"Daryl Norris is the best player in the state," said William Booth, head coach of rival Hartselle High. "He's an outstanding hitter and pitcher. He beat us. We've been playing against him since he was in seventh grade, and he's been outstanding every year."

Norris has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Auburn 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.

Norris joins recent Gatorade Alabama Baseball Players of the Year Luke Bole (2008-09, Hartselle), Tyler Stovall (2007-08, Hokes Bluff) and Hunter Morris (2006-07, Grissom) 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.

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