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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**VAN BUREN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Brandon Moore of Van Buren High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Player of the Year. Moore is the first Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Van Buren 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 Moore as Arkansas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Moore 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, 230-pound senior right-handed pitcher and infielder led the Pointers (19-12) to the Class 5A state final this past season, posting a 6-5 record and a 1.60 ERA along with 94 strikeouts and 15 walks in 61 innings. At the plate, he batted .460 with seven home runs, 30 RBIs and 26 runs. A two-time First Team All-State and First Team All-Tournament selection, Moore has helped lead Van Buren to the state tournament each of the last three years.

Moore has maintained an unweighted 3.11 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Cancer Society at Relay for Life events and as a youth baseball coach.

"Brandon Moore really has a Division I collegiate body and nothing but upside as a baseball player," said Russellville High Head Coach Matt Long. "He's developed a pretty nasty slider that's made him tough to beat. They made it to the state tournament because he threw them on their shoulders. He's a great offensive player too and he hasn't even come close to reaching his potential."

Moore has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Moore joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Baseball Players of the Year D.J. Baxendale (2008-09, Sylvan Hills), Tyler Wilson (2007-08, Greenwood) and Scott Sammons (2006-07, Searcy) 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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