

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Marco Gonzales of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year. Gonzales is the third Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Mountain 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 Gonzales as Colorado's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gonzales 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, 190-pound senior left-handed pitcher finished 11-0 with a 2.20 ERA this season, recording 81 strikeouts in 54 innings and leading the Lobos (24-2) to a fourth consecutive Class 5A state championship. A Louisville Slugger Pre-Season First Team All-American, Gonzales, also an outfielder, produced a .471 batting average with 35 runs scored, 34 RBI and seven home runs this spring. A returning First Team All-Colorado selection as named by *The Denver Post*, he was the winning pitcher in the championship game of Rocky Mountain's 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 state title runs. Gonzales also participated in the 2009 Area Code Games.

Gonzales has maintained a 3.32 unweighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a facility for senior citizens, on behalf of multiple holiday gift-giving programs for underprivileged children and as part of his school's peer-mentoring program.

"He has been the guy for four years now, and he is a player," said Joe White, head coach of rival ThunderRidge High. "Gonzales threw very well against us, but the thing that impressed me was how he got a base hit to score two runs in a tie game with two strikes on him against our No. 1 left-handed pitcher. He just competes and does not let anybody beat him in any situation."

Gonzales has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Gonzaga 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.

Gonzales joins recent Gatorade Colorado Baseball Players of the Year Bryan Peters (2008-09, Rocky Mountain), Andy Burns (2007-08, Rocky Mountain) and Matt Presley (2006-07, Cheyenne Mountain) 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.

###