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

**WATERFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT 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 Colin O'Keefe of Waterford High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year. O'Keefe is the first Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Waterford 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 O'Keefe as Connecticut's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, O'Keefe 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, 175-pound senior left-handed pitcher had posted a 5-2 record this season with a 1.59 ERA and 93 strikeouts, leading the Lancers (17-5) into the Class M postseason against O'Brien Tech, scheduled to begin June 1. O'Keefe, who had allowed just 16 hits in 44 innings at the time of his selection, tossed one no-hitter and pitched five no-hit innings in another start. At the plate, he owned a .417 average at the plate with 22 RBI through 22 games. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason Honorable Mention All-America selection, O'Keefe was named to the All-State team as a junior and played in the 2009 Area Code Games.

O'Keefe has maintained an unweighted 3.05 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a basketball program for special needs children.

"Colin O'Keefe is just a tremendous athlete and he plays the game the right way," said Jack Biggs, head coach of rival East Lyme High. "He throws hard and he keeps you off balance with his change-up and breaking ball."

O'Keefe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Virginia Tech 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.

O'Keefe joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Baseball Players of the Year Matt Carasiti (2008-09, Berlin), Jason Esposito (2007-08, Amity) and Matt Harvey (2006-07, Fitch) 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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