

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**ARCHBISHOP MCCARTHY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Nick Castellanos of Archbishop McCarthy High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year. Castellanos is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop McCarthy 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 Castellanos as Florida's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Castellanos 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-4, 205-pound senior shortstop batted .542 with 41 RBI, 34 runs scored, 22 stolen bases and six home runs this past season, leading the Mavericks (27-5) to the Class 4A state championship. A returning Class 4A First Team All-State selection, Castellanos recorded a .986 slugging percentage and .656 on-base percentage in 2010. In the 2009 Under Armour All-America Game, he finished 4-for-4 with four doubles, three RBI and three runs scored, capturing Most Valuable Player honors. Castellanos won that showcase's home run derby. He also helped lead the USA Baseball 18U National Team to the gold medal at the 2009 Pan American Junior Championships, earning All-Tournament Team honors.

Castellanos has maintained a 3.06 unweighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a peer tutor, he has volunteered locally as a youth athletic instructor and trainer.

"His sweet stroke and raw power are matched by very few players around the world," said Rick Riccobono, Director of the USA Baseball 18U National Team. "He is a constant offensive presence that demands great attention and planning from his opponents. Nick's love for the game and all-around exemplary demeanor are the pinnacle of our annual quest to honorably represent our great nation in international play."

Castellanos has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Miami this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in this month's Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

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.

Castellanos joins recent Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Bobby Borchering (2008-09, Bishop Verot), Eric Hosmer (2007-08, American Heritage School) and Michael Main (2006-07, DeLand) 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.

###