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**NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Damek Tomscha of North High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year. Tomscha is the second Gatorade Iowa Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from North 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 Tomscha as Iowa's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Tomscha 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, 190-pound senior shortstop led the Stars (36-7) to the first Class 4A state championship in school history this past season, batting .456 with 11 home runs, 48 RBIs, 52 hits and an .897 slugging percentage. A 2009 All-State Super Team selection and a 2009 Louisville Slugger Preseason All-American, Tomscha batted .667 with nine runs scored and six RBIs in three state tournament games.

Tomscha has maintained a weighted 3.52 GPA in the classroom. An active member of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a youth baseball and basketball coach as well as at North High's school store.

"Damek Tomscha has been a dynamic player for us since his freshman year," said Sioux City North Head Coach Brian Drent. "He has been a force the middle of our order and has also been a great defensive player with above-average range and arm strength. He has been the difference-maker for our team."

Tomscha will attend Iowa Western Community College this fall, where he will play baseball.

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.

Tomscha joins recent Gatorade Iowa Baseball Players of the Year Dean McArdle (2008-09, North), B.J. Hermsen (2007-08, West Delaware) and Jon Gilmore (2006-07, City) 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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