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**COEUR D'ALENE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Devon Austin of Coeur d'Alene High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year. Austin is the first Gatorade Idaho Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Coeur d'Alene 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 Austin as Idaho's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Austin 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, 180-pound senior catcher led the Vikings (22-10) to the Class 5A semifinals this season, batting .433 with four home runs, 48 RBIs and 17 stolen bases. A two-time Inland Empire League MVP and the second-ranked player in the Class of 2010 by Baseball Northwest, Austin tied his own single-season school record for RBIs this past season.

Austin has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach and umpire as well as on behalf of the Salvation Army and multiple homeless shelters.

"His ability to perform under pressure is spectacular," said Coeur d'Alene Head Coach Nick Rook. "His teammates consistently look to him for leadership in crucial situations. His intangibles as a player are off the charts. In my experience, I would rate Devon's overall skills in the top five percent of the players who I have coached both at the high school and collegiate levels."

Austin has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at New Mexico State 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.

Austin joins recent Gatorade Idaho Baseball Players of the Year Jacob Coats (2008-09, Twin Falls), Sean McDonald (2007-08, Boise) and Josh Osich (2006-07, Bishop Kelly) 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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