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**EVANGEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Bronson Gillam of Evangel Christian Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Player of the Year. Gillam is the second Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Evangel Christian Academy.

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 Gillam as Louisiana's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gillam 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, 225 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Eagles (24-11) to the Class 2A quarterfinals this past season, posting a 5-1 record with a 1.12 ERA and 48 strikeouts in 25.1 innings while batting .446 with 12 home runs, 37 RBIs and a .942 slugging percentage. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Gillam struck out 10 batters in four innings and delivered the game-tying hit in an opening-round win over Doyle High in the state tournament.

Gillam has maintained a 4.17 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at homeless shelters and as part of multiple community service programs in association with his church youth group.

"Bronson Gillam is an elite prospect with a fastball that he consistently throws in the low 90s," said Evangel Christian Academy Head Coach Tim Hulett. "He really persevered this year and battled through some tough injuries but still played at a very high level. I can't say enough about him."

Gillam has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Louisiana 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.

Gillam joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Players of the Year Zachary Von Rosenberg (2008-09, Zachary), Austin Nola (2007-08, Catholic) and Carmen Angelini (2006-07, Barbe) 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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