

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Travis Clark of Hammond High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year. Clark is the first Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hammond 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 Clark as Maryland's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Clark 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, 205-pound senior third baseman and right-handed pitcher and third baseman led the Golden Bears (21-3) to the Class 2A state semifinals this past season, batting .456 with eight home runs, 35 RBIs and an .897 slugging percentage, while posting a 5-0 record on the mound with a 1.98 ERA and 32 strikeouts in 28.1 innings. He was also credited with a save. A 2009 First Team All-State selection and the *Baltimore Sun* Player of the Week for May 5, Clark reached base via either a hit or a walk in every game for Hammond High this season.

Clark has maintained a weighted 3.07 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a summer youth baseball coach and as a team leader with the Golden Bears Pride school-spirit organization in addition to working a part-time job his family's restaurant business.

"Travis Clark is the most competitive player I have ever coached," said Hammond High Head Coach Michael Lerner. "He has more than a desire to win. He has a need to win"

Clark has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina at Aiken 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.

Clark joins recent Gatorade Maryland Baseball Players of the Year Jack Carey (2008-09, St. Paul's), Kevin Brady (2007-08, Gaithersburg) and Joseph Yermal (2006-07, McDonogh School) 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.

###