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**OXFORD HILLS COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Matt Verrier of Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year. Verrier is the first Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oxford Hills Comprehensive 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 Verrier as Maine's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Verrier 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, 195-pound senior catcher owned a .487 batting average this season with two home runs and 25 RBI at the time of his selection, leading the Vikings to a 13-2 mark entering a June 1 regular-season game with Lawrence. An All-Conference selection each of the past three years, Verrier was also named First Team All-State in 2009 and played in last summer's Area Code Games.

Verrier has maintained an unweighted 3.11 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, youth baseball and football programs, and as part of an elementary school Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) program.

"Verrier has the whole package of skills," said Scott Annear, head coach of rival Edward Little High. "He's great behind the plate, with solid mechanics and a great arm. He has excellent power as a hitter, and he makes great adjustments."

Verrier has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Maine 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.

Verrier joins recent Gatorade Maine Baseball Players of the Year Chris Bernard (2008-09, Scarborough), Kyle Stilphen (2007-08, Gardiner Area) and Jarrett Lukas (2006-07, Old Town) 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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