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**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Chris Anderson of Centennial High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year. Anderson is the first Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Anderson as Minnesota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Anderson 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-4, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher had posted a 6-1 record this season with a 1.19 ERA and 65 strikeouts, leading the Cougars (19-1) to the Class AAA sectional semifinals against Irondale, scheduled for June 2. Anderson had allowed just 28 hits in 41.1 innings at the time of his selection and was batting .435 with five home runs and 28 RBI through 20 games. An All-Conference selection in 2009, he was named to the Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason All-Central Region Second Team in 2010.

Anderson has maintained an unweighted 3.53 GPA in the classroom. Also a football standout, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball and football camps, and as an elementary school mentor.

"Chris Anderson has meant so much to his team and to their success," said Don Gawreluk of rival Andover High. "With all the pressure of the scouts at his games, he takes everything in stride. Nothing seems to faze him."

Anderson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Jacksonville 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.

Anderson joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Abrahamson (2008-09, Tartan), Brad Hand (2007-08, Chaska) and Mike Kvasnicka (2006-07, Lakeville North) 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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