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**FARGO SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 David Ernst of Fargo South High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year. Ernst is the first Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fargo South 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 Ernst as North Dakota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Ernst 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-2, 195-pound junior right-handed pitcher started 8-0 this season with a 0.69 ERA and 84 strikeouts against just seven walks in 51 innings, leading the Bruins (25-4) to the Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin June 3. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason All-America Honorable Mention, Ernst also owned a .437 batting average with 28 RBI, 27 runs scored and three home runs through 29 games. A returning All-Eastern Dakota Conference selection, he finished 4-2 with a 0.63 ERA and 58 strikeouts in 44.1 innings as a sophomore, while batting .353 in 2009.

Also a basketball standout, Ernst has maintained a 3.78 unweighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, DECA and his school's Latin Club, he has volunteered in association with his church community and as part of fundraising efforts to benefit the Fargo Metro Baseball Association.

"David is a competitor," said Fargo South Head Coach Donn Bryant. "He will give it his all and play until the last out. He is mature in that he doesn't take anything for granted. He plays the game like it is his last time he will ever play. Put that together with his skill and 88 mile-per-hour fastball, and he is a young man you want on your team."

Ernst will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Ernst joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Players of the Year Cole Frenzel (2008-09, Dickinson), Zac Elgie (2007-08, Minot) and Tanner Lorenz (2006-07, Harvey) 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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