

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**NEBRASKA CITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Logan Ehlers of Nebraska City High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year. Ehlers is the first Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Nebraska City 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 Ehlers as Nebraska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Ehlers 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 state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Ehlers finished with an 8-2 record, five saves and a 0.27 ERA on the mound, recording a state-record 186 strikeouts against just 15 walks in 78 innings this past season and leading the Pioneers (20-9) to the Class B state tournament. A returning EA Sports Baseball Second Team All-American, Ehlers, also a first baseman, batted .398 with 31 runs scored, 30 RBI, 12 doubles and four home runs. Honorary Captain of both the *Lincoln Journal Star* Super-State and *Omaha World-Herald* All-Nebraska teams, Ehlers was 10-0 with a 0.20 ERA and 161 strikeouts against 16 walks as a junior.

Ehlers has maintained a 3.32 unweighted GPA in the classroom. A participant in Leadership Nebraska and a member of his school's Awana Clubs International ministry chapter and Varsity Club, he has volunteered on behalf of a local crisis-intervention organization for victims of domestic violence. He has also served as a youth baseball and wrestling instructor.

"Logan's been a program-changer for us," said Nebraska City Head Coach Tom Bales. "Being as dominant as he's been, he's given us the opportunity to play with anybody in the state when he's on the mound. Here in Nebraska City, we'll probably never get another player as dominant as him. Everybody around has enjoyed watching him play. It's been a great ride for his coaches, his fans and his teammates."

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

Ehlers joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Baseball Players of the Year Kash Kalkowski (2007-08, Grand Island Senior) and Matt Freeman (2006-07, Elkhorn) 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).

###