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**PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Mike Montville of Portsmouth High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year. Montville is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Portsmouth 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 Montville as New Hampshire's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Montville 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, Montville owned a .525 batting average this season with 10 home runs and 28 RBI at the time of his selection, leading the Clippers (16-0) to their 59th consecutive victory entering their first round Class I playoff game with Oyster River, scheduled for June 3. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason First Team All-Northeast Region selection, he has propelled Portsmouth to back-to-back Class I state championships. The 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior first baseman is a three-time All-State selection and was named Player of the Year by both the *New Hampshire Union Leader* and *Foster's Daily Democrat* in 2009.

Montville has maintained an unweighted 3.60 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally serving meals to the elderly and on behalf of the Special Olympics.

"Montville is one of the best hitters I've seen in 20-plus years of coaching baseball," said Dale Rasmussen, head coach of rival Oyster River High. "He's got a great swing and he can hit the ball with authority to any field."

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

Montville joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Players of the Year Brad Zapenas (2007-08, Nashua North) and Brian White (2006-07, Salem) 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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