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**JACKSON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Bryan Soloman of Jackson Memorial High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year. Soloman is the first Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson Memorial 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 Soloman as New Jersey's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Soloman 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, 215-pound senior third baseman batted .462 with 37 RBI, 27 runs scored and 12 home runs this season, leading the Jaguars (24-5) to the Group IV state semifinals, scheduled to begin June 1. A returning Third Team All-Group IV selection, Soloman, also a right-handed pitcher, started 5-3 on the mound with a 3.89 ERA and 59 strikeouts in 50.1 innings through 28 games. A three-time Jersey Shore Carpenter Cup selection, he batted .440 with 30 RBI, 26 runs scored and seven home runs as a junior. Soloman has maintained a 3.08 unweighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered as a youth baseball instructor.

"Bryan is an extremely hard worker in and out of season," said Jackson Memorial Head Coach Frank Malta. "I do not think that I will ever coach another athlete with the discipline and drive that he has to constantly improve himself and his teammates. He personifies what it means to be a Division I athlete."

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

Soloman joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Players of the Year Mike Trout (2008-09, Millville), Quinton Miller (2007-08, Shawnee) and Rick Porcello (2006-07, Seton Hall Prep) 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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