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

**ELDORADO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Sam Wilson of Eldorado High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Player of the Year. Wilson is the fifth Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eldorado 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 Wilson as New Mexico's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Wilson 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 senior outfielder and left-handed pitcher led the Golden Eagles (27-3) to the Class 5A semifinals this past season, batting .590 with 10 home runs, 42 RBIs, 16 doubles and a 1.168 slugging percentage while posting a 6-1 record on the mound with a 1.40 ERA and 62 strikeouts in 44 innings. The 2010 All-Metro Player of the Year and a two-time First Team All-State selection, Wilson concluded his prep career as Eldorado's second-leading home run hitter with 20.

Wilson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He is an active member of his church community and has volunteered locally as a youth tutor and baseball camp counselor.

"Sam Wilson is one of the finest baseball players to ever come through this program," said Eldorado High Head Coach Jim Johns. "He is a solid student and is well-respected by his peers in the classroom and on the field. He is the consummate team player and leads by example."

Wilson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of New Mexico 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.

Wilson joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Players of the Year Max Walla (2008-09, Albuquerque Academy), Wade Hinkle (2007-08, Del Norte) and Richard Bohlken (2006-07, La Cueva) 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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