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**MOELLER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OHIO 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 David Whitehead of Moeller High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year. Whitehead is the fourth Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Moeller 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 Whitehead as Ohio's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Whitehead 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-4, 220-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Crusaders (29-1) to the Division I semifinals, scheduled to begin June 4, posting a 9-0 record with a 1.21 ERA and 66 strikeouts in 52 innings at the time of his selection. A 2010 All-Scout Team Selection by TheBuckeyeScout.com, Whitehead has helped Moeller earn the state's top ranking by the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association. The Crusaders are the nation's No. 3 rated team by ESPN RISE.

Whitehead has maintained a 93.6 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the school men's vocal ensemble, he has volunteered as a youth mentor and on behalf of Unified for UNIFAT (Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology), a non-profit organization dedicated to helping disadvantaged children in Uganda.

"Whitehead has been a rock for us all year long," said Moeller High Head Coach Tim Held. "Every time he's taken the ball, we know that we have a chance to win the game. He's been tremendous."

Whitehead has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at North Carolina's Elon University 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.

Whitehead joins recent Gatorade Ohio Baseball Players of the Year Tyler Skulina (2008-09, Walsh Jesuit), Ryan Curl (2007-08, St. Francis DeSales) and Derek Dietrich (2006-07, St. Ignatius) 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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