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**CLACKAMAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Ben Wetzler of Clackamas High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year. Wetzler is the first Gatorade Oregon Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Clackamas 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 Wetzler as Oregon's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Wetzler 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-1, 190-pound senior left-handed pitcher started 10-0 this season with four saves, a 0.39 ERA and 137 strikeouts in 72.6 innings, leading the Cavaliers (22-6) to the Class 6A state semifinals, scheduled to begin June 1. A Louisville Slugger Pre-Season Honorable Mention All-American, Wetzler, also a centerfielder, also owned a .337 batting average with 25 RBI, 15 runs scored and nine stolen bases at the time of his selection. Also a returning Class 6A First Team All-State selection and the 2009 Three Rivers League Pitcher of the Year, he finished 9-1 on the mound with a 0.47 ERA and 104 strikeouts as a junior. He played on the Cavaliers' 2008 Class 6A state title team as a sophomore.

Also a football standout, Wetzler has maintained a 3.94 unweighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, Future Farmers of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has also volunteered locally on behalf of multiple homeless shelters and as a youth football and baseball instructor.

"He's the best left-handed pitcher I've seen in the state in 12 years," said Mike Lord, head coach of rival West Linn High. "He has a great swing. He has great speed. He makes an impact on defense as a centerfielder. He can do all three things. We haven't touched Wetzler. He's the best guy I've seen for a while."

Wetzler has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Oregon State 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.

Wetzler joins recent Gatorade Oregon Baseball Players of the Year Matt Maurer (2008-09, North Medford), Ryan Gorton (2007-08, Tigard) and Joey Mahalic (2006-07, Wilson) 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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