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**NORTH PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Anthony Aceto of North Providence High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year. Aceto is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Providence 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 Aceto as Rhode Island's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Aceto 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, 185-pound senior outfielder batted .593 this season with 29 runs scored, 17 RBI and four home runs, leading the Cougars (18-2) to the Division 1 regional semifinals, scheduled for May 31. A returning All-State selection as named by the *Providence Journal*, Aceto, also a right-handed pitcher, was 5-2 with a 3.80 ERA and 50 strikeouts in 45 innings through 20 games.

Aceto has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time to two teen-outreach organizations—Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse and Students Against Destructive Decisions—he has volunteered as a youth baseball instructor and in association with his church community.

"Anthony established himself as one of the most respected and feared players in the state," said North Providence Head Coach Dean Garganese. "In addition to his skills on the baseball diamond, he demonstrates a ferocious work ethic and passion for the sport of baseball."

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

Aceto joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Morris (2008-09, North Kingstown) and Ryan Westmoreland (2007-08 & 2006-07, Portsmouth) 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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