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**FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Ethan Bennett of Farragut High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year. Bennett is the second Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Farragut 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 Bennett as Tennessee's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bennett 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, 210-pound senior catcher batted .410 this season with 73 RBI, 56 runs scored and a state single-season record 27 home runs this spring, leading the Admirals (42-6) to a third consecutive Class AAA state championship. A 2009-10 ESPN RISE Southeast Region Athlete of the Week, Bennett recently set the national record for home runs in consecutive games when he blasted 16 during a 10-game span this April. Also a returning First Team All-Region selection as named by the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association, he recorded a 1.058 slugging percentage and a .562 on-base percentage this season. A member of the 2008 and 2009 Class AAA state title teams, Bennett batted .360 with 39 RBI and 11 home runs as a junior.

An accomplished guitarist, Bennett has maintained a 3.80 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of his church's youth group and his school's peer-mentoring program, he has volunteered as part of countless community-service initiatives on behalf of children with special needs. He has also donated his time to a local children's hospital and as part of fundraising efforts to benefit cancer and autism research and treatment.

"I've never seen any season like the one Ethan has had," said Farragut Head Coach Matt Buckner. "You can't compare it to anyone. He's one of the best kids and best leaders I've ever had. As I've told about a hundred newspaper guys, he's always about the team. To me, that's the most special thing about him. His talent, what he's done, speaks for itself. I can't imagine a kid ever hitting that many home runs. We have two elite pitchers, and I think he handles them as good as anybody around. He's a tremendous field general. He's every bit as good as everybody says he is."

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

Bennett joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Players of the Year Curt Powell (2008-09, Farragut), Sonny Gray (2007-08, Smyrna) and Taylor Hill (2006-07, Mt. Juliet) 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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