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**THE WOODLANDS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Jameson Taillon of The Woodlands High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year. Taillon is the first Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from The Woodlands 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 Taillon as Texas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Taillon 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-6, 220-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Highlanders (24-8) to the first round of the Class 5A district tournament, posting an 8-1 record with a 1.79 ERA, 114 strikeouts in 62.2 innings while holding opposing hitters to a .177 batting average. A 2009 Aflac All-American and a member of the USA Baseball 18U National Team, Taillon is the nation's top-ranked prospect in the Class of 2010 as rated by both Perfect Game USA and Baseball America.

Taillon has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at an animal hospital and as a youth baseball coach for children with special needs and has visited wounded veterans at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in association with the USA Baseball 18U National Team.

"I've never seen anyone on the mound who is as dominant as Taillon is," said Mike Rutledge, head coach of the Houston-based Kyle Chapman Baseball Pony League. "There is no question in my mind that he is the most dominant prep pitcher in the country. I watched Josh Beckett pitch when he was in high school and he didn't dominate like Taillon does. He's proven everywhere he's played that he is the best."

Taillon has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Rice University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in this month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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.

Taillon joins recent Gatorade Texas Baseball Players of the Year Shelby Miller (2008-09, Brownwood), Taylor Jungmann (2007-08, Georgetown) and Blake Beavan (2006-07, Irving) 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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