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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**SPANISH FORK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® UTAH 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 Adam Duke of Spanish Fork High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year. Duke is the second Gatorade Utah Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spanish Fork 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 Duke as Utah's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Duke 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, 180-pound senior right-handed pitcher and infielder led the Dons (25-1) to the Class 4A state title this past season, posting an 11-0 record with a 1.33 ERA and 100 strikeouts in 58 innings while batting .419 with 30 RBIs and a .650 slugging percentage. A 2010 Louisville Slugger Preseason All-American and a 2009 First Team All-State selection, Duke was the winning pitcher in the Class 4A state final and he delivered the game-tying hit in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Duke has maintained an unweighted 3.29 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered as part of a local literacy-outreach program, area community clean-up initiatives and as a youth baseball coach.

"What's impressive about Adam Duke is the way he's taken on a leadership role on our team," said Spanish Fork High Head Coach Jim "Shoe" Nelson. "He's been asked to play all over the field this season and he's done it very well. On top of that, he's an awesome pitcher and he'll surely do well at the next level."

Duke 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.

Duke joins recent Gatorade Utah Baseball Players of the Year Marcus Littlewood (2008-09 & 2007-08, Pine View) and Tanner Robles (2006-07, Cottonwood) 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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