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**POQUOSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Kyle Crockett of Poquoson High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Virginia Baseball Player of the Year. Crockett is the first Gatorade Virginia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Poquoson 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 Crockett as Virginia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Crockett 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 senior left-handed pitcher started 11-0 this season with a 1.17 ERA, recording 92 strikeouts in 61.1 innings and leading the Islanders (22-1) to the Class AA Region I tournament, scheduled to begin May 31. The returning Player of the Year as named by the *Newport News Daily Press*, Crockett owned a .480 batting average with 23 RBI, 18 runs scored and two home runs through 23 games. Also the Class AA Player of the Year, he finished 13-0 as a junior with a 0.91 ERA and 96 strikeouts in 89.1 innings, leading Poquoson to the 2009 Class AA state title.

Crockett has maintained a 3.51 unweighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time locally as a mentor to elementary school children, he has volunteered as part of a fundraising campaign that raised more than \$250,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"One of his greatest attributes is that he's a tremendously even-keeled young man," said Poquoson Head Coach Kenneth Bennett. "As a pitcher, he never gets too high or too low. You cannot rattle him. He's always focused on the task at hand. Obviously, I feel like he's a rare talent. Not only is he left-handed, but it's very rare that you have a young man who comes through and progresses like he has and does as well as he's done. The kid has just done a tremendous job for us here."

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

Crockett joins recent Gatorade Virginia Baseball Players of the Year Ethan Carter (2008-09, Menchville), Austin Stadler (2007-08, James River) and Neil Ramirez (2006-07, Kempsville) 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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