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**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Adam Picard of Essex High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Vermont Baseball Player of the Year. Picard is the third Gatorade Vermont Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Essex 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 Picard as Vermont's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Picard 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 5-foot-10, 201-pound senior outfielder/right-handed pitcher owned a .545 batting average this season with seven home runs and 33 RBI at the time of his selection, leading the Hornets (14-2) to the second seed in the Division I state tournament, scheduled to begin June 1. A two-time All-Metro selection, Picard had also posted a 6-0 record with a 1.44 ERA through 16 games.

Picard has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. A member of the school's chamber choir and Athletic Leadership Council, he has volunteered locally with youth baseball and basketball programs.

"Picard is a very smart player who understands the game extremely well," said Tim Albertson, head coach of rival Champlain Valley Union High. "He's a very strong hitter and he really hits the fastball well."

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

Picard joins recent Gatorade Vermont Baseball Players of the Year Ryan Carter (2008-09, Proctor), Greg Lutton (2007-08, Mt. Abraham Union) and Casey Harman (2006-07, South Burlington) 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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