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**CENTRAL KITSAP HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Drew Vettleson of Central Kitsap High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year. Vettleson is the first Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Central Kitsap 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 Vettleson as Washington's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Vettleson 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, 190-pound senior outfielder and ambidextrous pitcher led the Cougars (15-8) to the first round of the Class 4A state tournament this past season, batting .490 with seven home runs, 28 RBIs and a 1.137 slugging percentage while posting a 3-2 record on the mound with two saves, a 1.35 ERA and 71 strikeouts in 41.1 innings. The returning Gatorade Washington Baseball Player of the Year and the 2010 *News Tribune* All-Area Baseball Player of the Year, Vettleson is rated the nation's No. 19 prospect in the Class of 2010 by Baseball America.

Vettleson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He is active in his church community and has volunteered locally as a youth baseball and basketball coach.

"Drew Vettleson is one of the best pure hitters I've ever seen at this level," said Central Kitsap High Head Coach Bill Baxter. "He has so much talent as a baseball player and works extremely hard to make himself better."

Vettleson 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.

Vettleson joins recent Gatorade Washington Baseball Players of the Year Rusty Shellhorn (2007-08, Central Valley) and Greg Peavey (2006-07, Hudson's Bay) 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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