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**NITRO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WEST VIRGINIA 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 J.R. Bradley of Nitro High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year. Bradley is the first Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Nitro 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 Bradley as West Virginia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bradley 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-4, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher started 12-0 this season with a 0.67 ERA and 102 strikeouts against just eight walks in 63 innings, leading the Wildcats (30-4) to the Class AAA state semifinals, scheduled to begin on June 4. A Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason All-America Honorable Mention, Bradley owned a .500 batting average with 51 RBI, 49 runs scored, 15 doubles and 12 home runs through 34 games. Also a two-time returning Class AAA First Team All-State selection, he finished 9-1 on the mound as a junior with a 1.68 ERA and 85 strikeouts in 69.2 innings. Bradley was a member of the 2008 Class AAA state title team as a sophomore.

Bradley has maintained a 3.23 unweighted GPA in the classroom. He has served on behalf of his school's student council in addition to donating his time as a youth baseball instructor.

"I can't imagine a better player," said Brian Sutphin, head coach of rival Hurricane High. "I mean, wow. He's the best player in West Virginia. He definitely does everything well. He hits for a high average, and he hits for power. He can dominate a game on the mound. Professionally and college-wise, obviously they're more excited about him as a pitcher, but he could be a two-way guy in college. He has that kind of talent. And he's a great kid. He really is."

Bradley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at North Carolina 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.

Bradley joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Baseball Players of the Year Corey Miller (2008-09, Cabell Midland), Chase Pickering (2007-08, Nitro) and Patrick Arnold (2006-07, Huntington) 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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