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## **WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® ALASKA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Adam Manzer of West Anchorage High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year. Manzer is the first Gatorade Alaska Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Anchorage 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 Manzer as Alaska's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Manzer 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-9, 160-pound senior catcher batted .483 along with 10 runs scored, eight stolen bases, six RBI, five triples and three doubles this season, leading the Eagles to a 6-4 record. A returning First Team All-Cook Inlet Conference selection, Manzer produced a .903 slugging percentage and .677 on-base percentage. The 2010 CIC Big Stick and Gold Glove awards recipient, he recorded a .490 batting average, 21 runs scored, 15 RBI, nine stolen bases, five triples and four doubles as a junior, capturing All-Tournament honors and leading the Eagles (10-4) to fourth place in their first-ever state tournament appearance. Over the summer, the West Anchorage senior plays for Seattle's Wilkinson Academy.

Also a hockey standout, Manzer has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time locally as a tutor and mentor for a Spanish-language summer camp, he has volunteered on behalf of the Providence Alaska Medical Center, the Food Bank of Alaska, Trick or Treat Town and the Sports Program for Youth Development Education and Recreation.

"Not only is Adam an exceptional athlete, he is an outstanding student and a great person," said West Anchorage head coach Mark Wisthoff. "Adam is one of the hardest-working players I've ever coached and is always willing to spend time before, during and after practice to help younger players hone their skills. Academically, Adam also achieved at a very high level. It's been an honor to coach Adam for the last four years. He'll be difficult to replace as a player and leader."

Manzer has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Truman State University in Missouri 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.

Manzer joins recent Gatorade Alaska Baseball Players of the Year Dylan Baker (2009-10, Juneau-Douglas), Ross Venneberg (2008-09; Sitka), Joe Kohan (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas), and Ryan Skillern (2006-07, South), 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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