

**MOUNTAIN POINTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Kevin Cron of Mountain Pointe High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arizona Baseball Player of the Year. Cron is the first Gatorade Arizona Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain Pointe 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 Cron as Arizona's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Cron 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-5, 250-pound senior catcher led the Pride (28-5) to the Class 5A, Division I state championship this past season. Cron batted .560 with 65 RBI, 32 runs scored, a state-record 27 home runs and 11 doubles. A returning First Team All-American as named by USA Today, Collegiate Baseball and MaxPreps, he produced a 1.404 slugging percentage and .644 on-base percentage this spring. Also a right-handed pitcher, Cron posted an 8-1 record on the mound along with two saves, a 2.26 ERA and 71 strikeouts in 65 innings. The only returning player on USA Today's 2010 First or Second Team All-American rosters, he recorded a .495 batting average, 22 home runs, 10 doubles, 52 RBI and 23 runs scored as a junior.

Cron has maintained a 4.60 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, he has volunteered on behalf of his church, the Salvation Army and Feed My Starving Children. Cron has also traveled on service-mission trips to Mexico, donated his time as a youth baseball instructor and sent care packages to members of the United States military stationed overseas.

"He is the best athlete on the field and wants the ball in his hands, but his greatest attribute is his character," said Mountain Pointe High head coach Brandon Buck. "I can't tell you how enjoyable it is to coach a young man like him. He's the best leader, person and player I've ever coached. I've never seen anyone show such respect to his teammates. I'm honored to be called his coach and am in awe with all that he does."

Cron has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Texas Christian 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.

Cron joins recent Gatorade Arizona Baseball Players of the Year Taylor Kaczmarek (2009-10, Desert Ridge), Jake Barrett (2008-09; Desert Ridge), Jaff Decker (2007-08, Sunrise Mountain), and Tim Alderson (2006-07, Horizon), 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.