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**GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Greg Bird of Grandview High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year. Bird is the first Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Grandview 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 Bird as Colorado's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bird 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, 205-pound senior catcher recorded a .553 batting average along with 38 RBI, 32 runs scored and 12 home runs this season, leading the Wolves (16-5) to the Class 5A district finals. A returning All-American as named by Under Armour and Collegiate Baseball, Bird produced a 1.468 slugging percentage and .744 on-base percentage. He amassed a .660 batting average, 42 RBI, 32 runs scored and 13 home runs as a junior.

Bird has maintained a 3.75 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of Cerebral Palsy of Colorado, Sports Made Possible and Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"He's the best player in the state, hands down," said Scott Bullock, head coach of rival Rocky Mountain High. "Offensively, he could be the best hitter ever from the state of Colorado. He's got power from foul pole to foul pole. His numbers were off the charts as a sophomore and junior, and this year nobody wanted to pitch to him. He's the real deal. He's a big-time offensive player and a good catcher, too."

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

Bird joins recent Gatorade Colorado Baseball Players of the Year Marco Gonzales (2009-10, Rocky Mountain), Bryan Peters (2008-09; Rocky Mountain), Andy Burns (2007-08, Rocky Mountain), and Matt Presley (2006-07, Cheyenne Mountain), 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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