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**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Mark Williams of Gonzaga College High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year. Williams is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 Williams as District of Columbia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Williams 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, 195-pound senior first baseman and right-handed pitcher batted .384 with seven home runs and 26 RBIs, leading the Eagles (16-12) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference semifinals. A two-time First Team All-Conference selection, Williams also posted a 4-4 record on the mound, logging a team-high 48 innings pitched.

Williams has maintained a 3.07 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach, a peer tutor and on behalf of food and clothing drives for the needy.

"Mark Williams is the kind of player who always rises to the occasion," said Gonzaga College High head Andy Williams. "He is the epitome of a big-game player."

Williams has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at LaSalle 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.

Williams joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Players of the Year Michael Bowie (2009-10, St. John's College), Matt Bowman (2008-09, St. Albans School), Danny Hultzen (2007-08, St. Albans School), and L.J. Hoes (2006-07, St. John's College), 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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