

**ALONSO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Jose Fernandez of Alonso High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year. Fernandez is the first Gatorade Florida Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Alonso 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 Fernandez as Florida's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fernandez 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, 230-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Ravens (23-5) to the Class 6A state championship. Fernandez finished 13-1 on the mound this season with a 1.35 ERA. A returning Aflac All-American Game selection, he recorded 134 strikeouts against just 21 walks in 93 innings. Also a third baseman, first baseman and outfielder, Fernandez batted .409 along with 35 RBI, 23 runs scored and nine home runs. A Louisville Slugger Preseason First Team All-American selection as named by Collegiate Baseball, he produced a .809 slugging percentage and .465 on-base percentage. Fernandez finished 10-1 with a 0.87 ERA and 101 strikeouts in 72.1 innings as a junior. He also compiled a .408 batting average with 29 RBI, 18 runs scored and five home runs in 2010.

Fernandez has maintained a 3.26 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Shriners Hospital for Children.

"His commitment, desire and work ethic is astonishing," said Alonso High head coach Landy Faedo. "Jose is very dedicated and passionate. He is our team captain and earns this title with his work ethic, compassion and willingness to help his peers. You will find no one who is willing to sacrifice like he does. He is a fine young man."

Fernandez has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of South Florida this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in this month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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.

Fernandez joins recent Gatorade Florida Baseball Players of the Year Nick Castellanos (2009-10, Archbishop McCarthy), Bobby Borcherding (2008-09; Bishop Verot Catholic), Eric Hosmer (2007-08, American Heritage School), and Michael Main (2006-07, DeLand), 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.