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**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Charlie Tilson of New Trier Township High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year. Tilson is the first Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from New Trier Township 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 Tilson as Illinois' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Tilson 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, 175-pound senior center fielder led the Trevians to a 24-9 record and a berth in the regional finals, scheduled for May 31. At the time of his selection, Tilson owned a .406 batting average with 41 runs scored and 28 stolen bases. A participant in the 2010 Area Code Games, he was also a Chicago Sun-Times All-Area honoree and was a Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason High School Senior All-America selection.

Tilson has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs and a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research. He has also donated his time as part of a charity effort to collect sports equipment for underprivileged inner-city children.

"Tilson is a good kid and a tremendous baseball player," said Garry Gustafson, head coach of rival Niles West High. "He's a legit five-tool player, and he plays the game the way it should be played."

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

Tilson joins recent Gatorade Illinois Baseball Players of the Year Jake DePew (2009-10, Granite City), Kevin Koziol (2008-09; Brother Rice), Jake Odorizzi (2007-08, Highland), and Jake Smolinski (2006-07, Boylan Catholic), 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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