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**MAIZE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Conner Knight of Maize High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kansas Baseball Player of the Year. Knight is the third Gatorade Kansas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Maize 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 Knight as Kansas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Knight 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 5-foot-10, 180-pound senior outfielder and right-handed pitcher led the Eagles (25-0) to the Class 6A state championship this past season. Knight batted .529 with three home runs and 32 RBIs while striking out just seven times in 92 plate appearances. A 2010 First Team All-Region selection, Knight also posted a 5-0 record on the mound with a 2.24 ERA with 30 strikeouts in 25 innings pitched.

Knight has maintained a 3.67 in the classroom. A devoted member of his parish community, he has also volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach.

"Conner Knight is the best player on the best team in the state," said Matt Orman head coach of rival Blue Valley High. "I know enough about him to know that he can take over a game from the mound or at the plate."

Knight has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Wichita State 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.

Knight joins recent Gatorade Kansas Baseball Players of the Year Cody Kukuk (2009-10, Free State), Garrett Gould (2008-09; Maize), Lee Ridenhour (2007-08, Shawnee Mission West), and Derek Norris (2006-07, Goddard), 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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