

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BARBE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Gavin Cecchini of Barbe High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Player of the Year. Cecchini is the third Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Barbe 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 Cecchini as Louisiana's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Cecchini 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-1, 180-pound junior shortstop batted .548 with 10 home runs, 41 RBIs and a 1.020 slugging percentage, leading the Bucs (24-9) to the Class 4A quarterfinals. A 2011 Under Armour All-American and a 2010 First Team All-State selection, Cecchini homered and drove in three runs in a 10-0 win over St. Thomas More High in the Class 5A regional final.

Cecchini has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and ranks fourth in his class of 410 students. An active member of his parish community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an area homeless shelter, as an elementary school motivational guest speaker and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Gavin Cecchini is an extremely good baseball player," said Darron Mitchell, head coach of rival Parkview Baptist High head coach. "He's a very good hitter with pop and he looks like he enjoys the game of baseball."

Cecchini has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at Mississippi beginning in the fall of 2012.

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.

Cecchini joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Baseball Players of the Year Bronson Gillam (2009-10, Evangel Christian Academy), Zachary Von Rosenberg (2008-09; Zachary), Austin Nola (2007-08, Catholic), and Carmen Angelini (2006-07, Barbe), 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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