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**ARCHBISHOP SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Austin Neary of Archbishop Spalding High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year. Neary is the first Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archbishop Spalding 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 Neary as Maryland's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Neary 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-3, 220-pound senior third baseman led the Cavaliers (22-5) to the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference Championship this past season. Neary batted .585 with six home runs, 34 RBIs and 31 runs scored. A 2010 First Team All-Conference selection, Neary struck out only three times in 78 plate appearances this season.

Neary has maintained a B average in the classroom. An avid and championship-winning fisherman, he has volunteered locally on behalf of food and clothing drives for the needy.

"Austin Neary is a very good baseball player who absolutely crushed the ball in the games where we faced him," said Larry Prange, head coach of rival Bishop McNamara. "He's also a terrific fielder and just a first rate all around ballplayer."

Neary has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Western Carolina 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.

Neary joins recent Gatorade Maryland Baseball Players of the Year Travis Clark (2009-10, Hammond), Jack Carey (2008-09; St. Paul's School), Kevin Brady (2007-08, Gaithersburg), and Joseph Yermal (2006-07, McDonogh School), 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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