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**HILL-MURRAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MINNESOTA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Rob Youngdahl of Hill-Murray School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year. Youngdahl is the fourth Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hill-Murray 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 Youngdahl as Minnesota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Youngdahl 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-2, 185-pound senior left-handed pitcher and center fielder led the Pioneers to a 17-2 record and a berth in the Section 4AAA playoffs against Roseville, scheduled for May 31. At the time of his selection, Youngdahl owned a 7-0 record on the mound with a 0.49 ERA. An All-Metro First Team honoree in 2010 and a Rawlings/Perfect Game Preseason High School Senior All-Region First Team selection, he batted .450 average with five home runs and 24 RBI through 19 games.

Youngdahl has maintained a 4.05 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an area food pantry for the needy and youth baseball programs.

"Youngdahl is the complete package," said Curt Russell, head coach of rival Tartan High. "He's a dominating pitcher, and as a position player he hits the ball a ton."

Youngdahl has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Kansas 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.

Youngdahl joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Chris Anderson (2009-10, Centennial), Ryan Abrahamson (2008-09; Tartan), Brad Hand (2007-08, Chaska), and Mike Kvasnicka (2006-07, Lakeville North), 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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