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**Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)**

**GEORGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSISSIPPI 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 Mason Robbins of George County High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year. Robbins is the first Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from George County 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 Robbins as Mississippi's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Robbins 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, 205-pound senior outfielder and left-handed pitcher batted .500 with 14 home runs, 39 RBIs, 37 runs scored and a 1.018 slugging percentage, leading the Rebels to the Class 6A state semifinals. A 2011 Clarion-Ledger Dandy Dozen selection and a 2010 Under Armour All-American, Robbins also posted a 7-3 record on the mound with a 1.66 ERA and 93 strikeouts in 59 innings pitched.

Robbins has maintained a 91.5 average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple school fundraisers.

"Mason Robbins is the best player we faced this year," said Joe Hartfield, head coach of rival Hattiesburg High. "We faced him in a division playoff and everything he hit was right on the barrel. He hit a home run against us and then he pitched a one-hitter. He is just a tremendous ballplayer."

Robbins has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi 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.

Robbins joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Players of the Year Brayden Jones (2009-10, Madison Central), Darren Farmer (2008-09; West Lauderdale), Rashun Dixon (2007-08, Terry), and Paxton Pace (2006-07, West Lauderdale), 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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