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**WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 AJ Murray of Westfield High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year. Murray is the first Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Westfield 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 Murray as New Jersey's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Murray 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, 215-pound senior catcher has led the Blue Devils to a 22-4 record and a berth in the North II, Group IV semifinals, scheduled for May 31. Murray has batted .554 along with 48 runs scored, 43 RBI, 12 doubles and nine home runs this season. A Rawlings Preseason Second Team All-American as named by Perfect Game USA, he has produced a 1.048 slugging percentage and .642 on-base percentage. Also a returning Third Team All-State selection as named by The Newark Star-Ledger, Murray recorded a .482 batting average, 33 runs scored, 26 RBI and 12 doubles as a junior.

Murray has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. An active member of his church community, he has donated his time as a youth baseball instructor and as part of multiple holiday charity gift-giving campaigns.

"A.J. Murray is one of the best all-around high school baseball players that I have seen," said Frank Napolitano, head coach of rival Union High. "He hits with authority to all fields. The part of his game that few coaches talk about is his defense, but it could be the best part of his all-around game. He throws and blocks as well as any catcher. He runs the bases better than most outfielders. He's just a pure athlete. Perhaps the strongest attribute as a baseball player is his sportsmanship."

Murray has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Georgia Tech 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.

Murray joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Baseball Players of the Year Bryan Soloman (2009-10, Jackson Memorial), Mike Trout (2008-09; Millville), Quinton Miller (2007-08, Shawnee), and Rick Porcello (2006-07, Seton Hall Prep), 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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