

**FARGO SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 David Ernst of Fargo South High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year. Ernst is the first Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fargo South 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 Ernst as North Dakota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Ernst 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, 200-pound senior right-handed pitcher has led the Bruins to a 32-2 record and a berth in the Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin on June 2. The state's returning Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year, Ernst has started 6-0 with a 0.68 ERA and 65 strikeouts against just eight walks in 41 innings. Also a first baseman, third baseman, shortstop and outfielder, he has batted .486 along with 43 RBI, 34 runs scored, 10 doubles and three home runs. A Preseason First Team All-American selection as named by Collegiate Baseball, Ernst has produced a .724 slugging percentage and .521 on-base percentage. As a junior, he finished 8-0 on the mound with a 0.75 ERA and 93 strikeouts in 56 innings in addition to batting .436 with 30 RBI and 18 doubles.

Also a basketball standout, Ernst has maintained a 3.79 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, the DECA entrepreneurial association and his school's Latin Club, he has volunteered on behalf of his church community and as part of fundraising efforts to benefit the Fargo Metro Baseball Association.

"He's meant quite a bit to our program," said Fargo South head coach Donn Bryant. "He's really matured and gotten better every year. He's gained miles per hour, and his breaking ball has gotten sharper every year. He's really taken what the coaches have told him, and he's become a great leader. You just don't see guys like him—maybe once every 10-15 years or maybe longer. He can do it all."

Ernst has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at North Dakota 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.

Ernst joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Players of the Year David Ernst (2009-10, Fargo South), Cole Frenzel (2008-09; Dickinson), Zac Elgie (2007-08, Minot), and Tanner Lorenz (2006-07, Harvey), 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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