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**BUTLER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Taylore Cherry of Butler High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year. Cherry is the first Gatorade Ohio Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Butler 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 Cherry as Ohio's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Cherry 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-10, 290-pound junior right-handed pitcher posted a 6-1 record on the mound along with a 1.38 ERA this past season, leading the Aviators (27-3) to the Division I quarterfinals. A 2011 Aflac All-American, Cherry notched 94 strikeouts in 56 innings pitched and tossed a complete-game, no-hitter against Centerville High in early May, striking out eight batters in a 2-1 win.

Cherry has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth basketball coach and camp counselor.

"Taylore Cherry is big and strong with a great arm," said Chuck Harlow, head coach of rival Northmont High. "He is very competitive and gives Butler a chance to win every time he takes the field."

Cherry has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning in the fall of 2012.

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.

Cherry joins recent Gatorade Ohio Baseball Players of the Year David Whitehead (2009-10, Moeller), Tyler Skulina (2008-09; Walsh Jesuit), Ryan Curl (2007-08, St. Francis DeSales), and Derek Dietrich (2006-07, St. Ignatius), 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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