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**SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 1, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jordan Montgomery of Sumter High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Player of the Year. Montgomery is the first Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sumter 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 Montgomery as South Carolina's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Montgomery 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-5, 220-pound senior left-handed pitcher led the Gamecocks (24-7) to the Class 4A state title this past season. Montgomery posted an 11-0 record on the mound with one save, a 0.38 ERA, 114 strikeouts and 11 walks in 74.1 innings. The 2011 Class 4A state tournament MVP, Montgomery won all four of his starts without allowing a run in the state tournament, including a complete-game shutout against Byrnes High in the state final.

Montgomery has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered as an elementary school tutor and as a youth baseball coach.

"Jordan Montgomery put together one of the finest individual seasons I've ever seen a player have," said Sumter High head coach Brooks Shumake. "Every time he took the mound, we knew we had a good chance to win. He was such a competitor out there."

Montgomery has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Montgomery joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Baseball Players of the Year Forrest Koumas (2009-10, Lugoff-Elgin), Madison Younginer (2008-09; Mauldin), Zac Fuesser (2007-08, York Comprehensive), and Steven Neff (2006-07, Lancaster), 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.

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