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**SCIENCE HILL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Daniel Norris of Science Hill High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year. Norris is the first Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Science Hill 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 Norris as Tennessee's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Norris 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, 190-pound senior left-handed pitcher finished 8-2 on the mound with a 2.24 ERA this season, leading the Hilltoppers to the Class AAA sectional finals. The returning National Pitcher of the Year as named by Baseball America, Norris totaled 123 strikeouts in 68.2 innings. Also a centerfielder, he recorded a .402 batting average along with 45 RBI, 43 runs scored and nine home runs. The 2010 Aflac National High School Baseball Player of the Year, Norris produced a .769 slugging percentage and .507 on-base percentage this spring. In addition to leading the East Cobb Yankees to a Connie Mack World Series appearance in the summer of 2010, he finished 8-0 with a 1.96 ERA and 140 strikeouts as well as recording a .483 batting average, 55 RBI and seven home runs as a high school junior.

Norris has maintained a 3.08 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and his church's youth group, he has also donated his time as a peer tutor for students with special needs.

"He could throw Friday night for Clemson," said Gil Payne, head coach of rival Tennessee High. "He also plays centerfield and bats in the 3-hole for them, and he's just as good at those positions as he is as a pitcher. He runs like a deer. He's got it all. He'll definitely be a first-round pick. I've been coaching 20 years, and he's as good as I've seen. He's one of those rare players that coaches and programs are fortunate to have. You put him on the field, and he's going to compete like a crazy man."

Norris has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Clemson University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in this month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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.

Norris joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Players of the Year Ethan Bennett (2009-10, Farragut), Curt Powell (2008-09; Farragut), Sonny Gray (2007-08, Smyrna), and Taylor Hill (2006-07, Mt. Juliet), 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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