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**JESUIT COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Josh Bell of Jesuit College Preparatory School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year. Bell is the first Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit College Preparatory 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 Bell as Texas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bell 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-4, 205-pound senior outfielder batted .548 with 13 home runs, 54 RBIs and 54 runs with a 1.054 slugging percentage, leading the Rangers (34-9) to the Class 5A regional final. A two-time team MVP and rated the nation's No. 6 prospect in the Class of 2011 by Baseball America, Bell struck out only five times in 139 plate appearances this season.

Bell has maintained an 87.2 average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor, on behalf of the Special Olympics and in association with various community clean-up initiatives.

"What an awesome gift Josh Bell has," said Dorman Pryor, head coach of rival Sunset High. "He can run, throw and hit with the best of them. I like to speak with gifted kids just to gauge their level of maturity and he seems like a very level-headed, unassuming young man."

Bell has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Texas 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.

Bell joins recent Gatorade Texas Baseball Players of the Year Jameson Taillon (2009-10, The Woodlands), Shelby Miller (2008-09; Brownwood), Taylor Jungmann (2007-08, Georgetown), and Blake Beavan (2006-07, Irving), 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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