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**SPAIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALABAMA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 30, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Mikey White of Spain Park High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year. White is the first Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spain Park 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 White as Alabama's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, White 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-1, 190-pound senior infielder batted .389 with nine home runs and 37 RBI this past season, leading the Jaguars (35-17) to the Class 6A state semifinals. A returning Class 6A First Team All-State selection as named by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, White recorded a .712 slugging percentage and .524 on-base percentage. Also a right-handed pitcher, he owned an 8-2 record with two saves, a 1.13 ERA and 61 strikeouts against nine walks in 55.2 innings pitched. White captured a gold medal at the Pan American Games this past summer as a member of the 2011 USA Baseball 18U National Team.

White has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church's youth group, as a featured speaker at a Christian youth conference, on An Audience of ONE's leadership council and as a mentor to a special needs graduate assistant manager for his school's baseball program.

"He was arguably the best pitcher in our area and wasn't even a 'true pitcher,'" said Dal Davis, head coach at rival Vestavia Hills High. "He pitched on guts, heart, and a determination that willed his team to victory. You held your breath every time he came up to the plate. Defensively, he is the best shortstop in our state. As a coach at a rival high school, I'm glad he's graduating."

White has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Alabama this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in next 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 ESPNHS 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.

White joins recent Gatorade Alabama Baseball Players of the Year Keegan Thompson (2010-11, Cullman High School), Daryl Norris (2009-10, Fairhope), Luke Bole (2008-09; Hartselle), Tyler Stovall (2007-08, Hokes Bluff), and Hunter Morris (2006-07, Grissom), 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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