

Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**PINE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Ryan Warner of Pine Creek High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year. Warner is the first Gatorade Colorado Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Pine Creek 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 Warner as Colorado's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Warner 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-7-pound senior outfielder and first baseman batted .493 with six home runs and 31 RBI this past season, leading the Eagles (20-4) to the second round of the Class 5A state tournament. A returning Class 5A Honorable Mention All-State selection as named by The Denver Post, Warner produced a .971 slugging percentage and .611 on-base percentage in addition to scoring 32 runs. Also a right-handed pitcher, he owned a 7-1 record with a 2.18 ERA and 89 strikeouts in 51.1 innings pitched.

Warner has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football instructor, he has participated in numerous fundraising events to benefit his school's athletic department.

"When we saw him on the mound against us, I think our guys knew we were in trouble," said Mike Hagen, head coach at rival Palmer High. "Even when he wasn't on the mound, we always tried to pitch him very carefully, but he always found a way to come up with a big hit. He has always displayed excellent leadership on the field and always set a good example."

Warner has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at North Carolina State University 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 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.

Warner joins recent Gatorade Colorado Baseball Players of the Year Greg Bird (2010-11, Grandview High School), Marco Gonzales (2009-10, Rocky Mountain), Bryan Peters (2008-09; Rocky Mountain), Andy Burns (2007-08, Rocky Mountain), and Matt Presley (2006-07, Cheyenne Mountain), 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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