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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Danny O'Donnell of St. John's College High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year. O'Donnell is the fourth Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. John's College 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 O'Donnell as District of Columbia's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, O'Donnell 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, 180-pound senior right-handed pitcher posted a 6-2 record on the mound, along with a 0.34 ERA and 43 strikeouts in 43.67 innings this past season, leading the Cadets (26-3) to the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference semifinals. The 2012 WCAC Player of the Year, O'Donnell also held opposing hitters to a .111 batting average and produced a WHIP of 0.62.

O'Donnell has maintained a 3.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at an area retirement home and on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of America.

"Danny O'Donnell was just a tremendous pitcher for us all season from start to finish," said St. John's head coach Mark Gibbs. "Every time he took the mound he gave us a chance to win. When you keep your ERA close to zero most of the year, you much be doing something right."

O'Donnell will attend George Washington University this fall where he will play baseball.

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.

O'Donnell joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Baseball Players of the Year Mark Williams (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Michael Bowie (2009-10, St. John's College), Matt Bowman (2008-09; St. Albans School), Danny Hultzen (2007-08, St. Albans School), and L.J. Hoes (2006-07, St. John's College), 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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