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**BLUE VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Collin Wiles of Blue Valley West High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Kansas Baseball Player of the Year. Wiles is the second Gatorade Kansas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Valley West 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 Wiles as Kansas's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Wiles 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, 185-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop led the Jaguars (21-3) to the Class 6A state final this past season. He posted an 8-0 record on the mound with a 0.10 ERA and 76 strikeouts in 49.1 innings. A 2011 First Team All-State selection, Wiles also batted .375 with 11 RBIs and 10 runs scored.

Wiles has maintained a 3.08 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has assisted in relief efforts for earthquake victims in Haiti.

"Collin Wiles is a very talented pitcher," said Lorne Parks, head coach at St. Thomas Aquinas High. "He is very aggressive and he mixes up his pitches well to keep hitters off balance. He always has great mound presence and carries himself in a positive manner."

Wiles has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Vanderbilt 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.

Wiles joins recent Gatorade Kansas Baseball Players of the Year Conner Knight (2010-11, Maize High School), Cody Kukuk (2009-10, Free State), Garrett Gould (2008-09; Maize), Lee Ridenhour (2007-08, Shawnee Mission West), and Derek Norris (2006-07, Goddard), 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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