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**BRYAN STATION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KENTUCKY BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 30, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Ryne Combs of Bryan Station High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year. Combs is the first Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bryan Station 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 Combs as Kentucky's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Combs 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, 160-pound senior left-handed pitcher and outfielder led the Defenders to a 26-12 record entering the 11th Region semifinals against Lexington Catholic, scheduled for May 29. At the time of his selection, Combs owned a 7-1 record on the mound with two saves, a 0.55 ERA and 82 strikeouts in 52 innings. A three-time First Team All-State honoree, he also batted .427 with three home runs, 16 RBIs and 17 stolen bases through 38 games.

Combs has maintained a 3.83 in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has assisted in relief efforts for earthquake victims in Haiti and has donated his time as a Spanish tutor and youth baseball coach.

"Ryne Combs is a big game player," said Bryan Station head coach Eddie Brooks. "When he's on the mound he takes control of a game. He has earned the respect of his teammates on and off the field. He's the kind of player who makes you look like a really great coach."

Combs has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Combs joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Players of the Year Zach Lucas (2010-11, Butler Traditional High School), Trevor Gott (2009-10, Tates Creek), Luke Maile (2008-09; Covington Catholic), Robbie Ross (2007-08, Lexington Christian Academy), and Ben Revere (2006-07, Lexington Catholic), 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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