

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)**

**MARSHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Luke Fernandes of Marshwood High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year. Fernandes is the first Gatorade Maine Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Marshwood 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 Fernandes as Maine's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Fernandes 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, 170-pound senior right-handed pitcher/shortstop led the Hawks to a 13-2 record entering the regular-season finale against Sanford, scheduled for May 29. Through 15 games, Fernandes owned a 4-1 record and a 1.83 ERA on the mound along with a .404 batting average with 14 RBI at the plate. He recorded 47 strikeouts against just four walks in 30.2 innings pitched. A three-time First Team All-State honoree, he was also a Rawlings/Perfect Game First Team All-Region selection.

Fernandes has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of his school's wellness council, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth baseball and basketball programs.

"Fernandes has an above-average fastball, a very good breaking ball and he understands what pitching is all about," said Marc Boissonneault, head coach at Sanford High. "When he's on the mound he's in command of everything around him. He's also one of the tougher outs in the league; just a good, solid, all-around ballplayer."

Fernandes has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Boston College 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.

Fernandes joins recent Gatorade Maine Baseball Players of the Year Scott Heath (2010-11, Westbrook High School), Matt Verrier (2009-10, Oxford Hills Comprehensive), Chris Bernard (2008-09, Scarborough), Kyle Stilphen (2007-08, Gardiner Area), and Jarrett Lukas (2006-07, Old Town), 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).

###