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**NORTH HARFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Kevin Mooney of North Harford High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year. Mooney is the first Gatorade Maryland Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Harford 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 Mooney as Maryland's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Mooney 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, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder posted a 9-1 record with a 0.30 ERA and 114 strikeouts in 64 innings this past season, leading the Hawks (23-3) to the Class 3A state final. A 2012 Maryland High School Coaches Association Pre-Season All-State selection, Mooney also batted .361 with 30 RBIs and a 1.191 OPS.

Mooney has maintained a 4.06 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, the German National Honor Society and his school's Student Government Association executive board, he has also volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group and is the founding member of his school's table tennis club.

"Kevin Mooney is the best pitcher in the state of Maryland, no question about it," said Bernie Walter, director of baseball operations at the University of Maryland. "He can throw with command. He's also an outstanding student with a solid family life."

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

Mooney joins recent Gatorade Maryland Baseball Players of the Year Austin Neary (2010-11, Archbishop Spalding High School), Travis Clark (2009-10, Hammond), Jack Carey (2008-09; St. Paul's School), Kevin Brady (2007-08, Gaithersburg), and Joseph Yermal (2006-07, McDonogh School), 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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