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**BISHOP FOLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Brett Sunde of Bishop Foley Catholic High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year. Sunde is the first Gatorade Michigan Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Foley Catholic 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 Sunde as Michigan's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Sunde 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, 195-pound senior catcher led the Ventures (34-3) to a Catholic League title entering the Division 3 state tournament, scheduled to begin May 29. At the time of his selection, Sunde batted .500 with 43 RBIs, 40 runs scored and a .664 on-base percentage. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, he also helped Bishop Foley win the 2011 Division 3 state title.

Sunde has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and as a youth baseball coach, and participated in an effort to remodel a handicapped-accessible home for an area quadriplegic resident.

"Brett Sunde has been a tremendous player in our area," said Andy Schramek, head coach at Lake Orion High. "He can control a game from behind the plate and in the batter's box. I haven't seen any other player this year that I would consider to be better than him."

Sunde has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Western Michigan 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.

Sunde joins recent Gatorade Michigan Baseball Players of the Year Joel Seddon (2010-11, St. Clair High School), Jack Livingston (2009-10, Portage Northern), Pat Biondi (2008-09; Divine Child), Tyler Mills (2007-08, Mt. Pleasant), and D.J. LeMahieu (2006-07, Brother Rice), 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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