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**CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Mitch Brown of Century High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Century 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 Brown as Minnesota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Brown 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-2, 205-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Panthers to a 15-6 record entering the Class 3A sectional quarterfinals against Northfield, scheduled for May 29. Through 21 games, Brown owned a 7-1 record on the mound with a 0.91 ERA, recording 108 strikeouts in 54 innings pitched. He was a First Team All-State and First Team All-Conference selection as a junior.

Brown has maintained a 3.32 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and has also donated his time to youth baseball programs.

"Brown is a very talented and dominating pitcher," said Dan Quame, head coach at Mankato East High. "He has command of a number of different pitches and he's got great athletic ability. In 20 years of coaching high school baseball, he's one of the top pitchers I've seen first-hand."

Brown has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of San Diego this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in next month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Baseball Players of the Year Rob Youngdahl (2010-11, Hill-Murray School), Chris Anderson (2009-10, Centennial), Ryan Abrahamson (2008-09; Tartan), Brad Hand (2007-08, Chaska), and Mike Kvasnicka (2006-07, Lakeville North), 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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