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**SAVANNAH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Blake McFadden of Savannah High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year. McFadden is the first Gatorade Missouri Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Savannah 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 McFadden as Missouri's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, McFadden 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, 200-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder led the Savages (23-4) to the Class 3 semifinals against Lutheran South, scheduled for June 1. McFadden owned a 9-0 record with a 0.16 ERA and 116 strikeouts in 57 innings through 27 games. A 2011 Under Armour All-American game selection, he also batted .391 with 25 RBIs and a 1.051 OPS.

McFadden has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Special Olympics and as part of a literacy-outreach program.

"Blake McFadden has devoted many hours to making himself a better player and he carries himself with class," said Mike Musser, head coach at Benton High. "He is the type of player that all coaches instruct their younger players to watch and mold themselves after. He does it right and people will be talking about him from years to come."

McFadden has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Kansas State 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.

McFadden joins recent Gatorade Missouri Baseball Players of the Year Brett Graves (2010-11, Francis Howell High School), Chuckie Jones (2009-10, Boonville), Jacob Turner (2008-09; Westminster Christian Academy), Tim Melville (2007-08, Holt), and Nicholas Tepesch (2006-07, Blue Springs), 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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