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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Jordan Bean of St. Thomas Aquinas High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year. Bean is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Thomas Aquinas 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 Bean as New Hampshire's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Bean 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 5-foot-9, 175-pound senior right-handed pitcher led the Saints to a 15-1 record entering the Div. 2 playoffs, scheduled for May 31. Through 16 games, Bean owned a 5-0 record and a 1.29 ERA on the mound along with a .463 batting average with 14 RBI at the plate. He is a three-time All-State selection.

Bean has maintained a 4.30 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor in his school, he has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives to benefit the needy, youth baseball programs and in association with his church's vacation Bible school.

"Bean is a clutch player who just doesn't make mistakes," said Eddy Coulombe, head coach at Goffstown High. "He throws a fastball, curve, slider, change and he has uncanny control. He's also a good hitter and he's solid defensively. He's been dominant."

Bean will attend Tufts University this fall, where he will play baseball.

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.

Bean joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Baseball Players of the Year Jordan Cote (2010-11, Winnisquam Regional High School), Mike Montville (2008-09 & 2009-10, Portsmouth), Brad Zapenas (2007-08, Nashua North), and Brian White (2006-07, Salem), 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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