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PIEDRA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Shilo McCall of Piedra Vista High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Player of the Year. McCall is the first Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Piedra Vista 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 McCall as New Mexico's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, McCall 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 outfielder and right-handed pitcher led the Panthers (28-3) to their third straight Class 4A state championship this past season. McCall batted .561 with seven home runs, 52 RBIs and 46 runs-scored, posting a .667 on-base percentage. A 2011 First Team All-State selection, he also compiled a 7-2 record on the mound with a 2.90 ERA and 53 strikeouts in 54 innings-pitched.

McCall has maintained a 3.68 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a youth baseball coach.

"Shilo McCall is a tremendous athlete," said Piedra Vista High head coach Mike McGaha. "He's been such a huge part of all our success here and he has a chance to drafted and make a big impact at the next level."

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

McCall joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Baseball Players of the Year Blake Swihart (2010-11, Cleveland High School), Sam Wilson (2009-10, Eldorado), Max Walla (2008-09; Albuquerque Academy), Wade Hinkle (2007-08, Del Norte), and Richard Bohlken (2006-07, La Cueva), 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.