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**WEST FARGO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Andy Young of West Fargo High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year. Young is the first Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Fargo 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 Young as North Dakota's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Young 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-10, 175-pound senior shortstop led the Packers to a 30-5 record entering the Class A state tournament, scheduled to begin May 31. The Eastern Dakota Conference Senior Player of the Year, Young batted .389 with six home runs and 38 RBI through 35 games. He produced a .708 slugging percentage and .478 on-base percentage. Also a right-handed pitcher, Young owned a 5-0 record with a 1.74 ERA and 40 strikeouts in 40.1 innings pitched. A returning Class A First Team All-State selection, he led West Fargo to the 2011 Class A state title game as a junior and carried his American Legion team to a state runner-up finish this past summer.

Young has maintained a 3.35 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as an instructor at youth baseball camps, he has volunteered as a Little League Baseball coach.

"Andy has always been a clutch player," said West Fargo head coach Brett Peterson. "He is the guy you want on the mound if you have to win a big game. He is also the guy that will come up with a big hit if we need one. Defensively at short, he is one of the best players I have coached. He has a great arm, tremendous range, and is just an extremely smart baseball player."

Young remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Young joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Baseball Players of the Year David Ernst (2009-10 & 2010-11, Fargo South High School), Cole Frenzel (2008-09; Dickinson), Zac Elgie (2007-08, Minot), and Tanner Lorenz (2006-07, Harvey), 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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