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**WILLIAM PENN CHARTER SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® PENNSYLVANIA 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 Kenny Koplove of William Penn Charter School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year. Koplove is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from William Penn Charter 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 Koplove as Pennsylvania's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Koplove 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, 160-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop led the Quakers (20-5) to the Pennsylvania Independent Schools League semifinals this past season. He posted a 9-1 record with a 2.06 ERA and 80 strikeouts in 48 innings on the mound. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Koplove also batted .347 with 19 RBIs and 18 runs scored.

Koplove has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a project to build a community walkway along his school's athletic facilities and as a youth baseball coach.

"Kenny Koplove is a true competitor," said William Penn Charter School head coach Jon Cross. "His work ethic and his overall knowledge of the game really make him stand out. He gives us a chance to win every time he takes the field."

Koplove has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at Duke 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.

Koplove joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Players of the Year Derek Fisher (2010-11, Cedar Crest High School), Sean Coyle (2009-10, Germantown Academy), Mike Lubanski (2008-09; Malvern Preparatory School), Zak Sinclair (2007-08, West Allegheny), and Devin Mesoraco (2006-07, Punxsutawney), 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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