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**EAST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 David Hopkins of East Greenwich High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year. Hopkins is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from East Greenwich 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 Hopkins as Rhode Island's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Hopkins 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, 170-pound junior shortstop led the Avengers to a 9-10 record and a berth in the Division 1 state tournament, scheduled to begin May 29. A returning First Team All-State and two-time First Team All-Division selection, Hopkins batted .370 with one home run and 18 RBI through his first 19 games. He collected 20 walks and scored 19 runs while producing a .551 on-base percentage and .537 slugging percentage. Also a right-handed pitcher, Hopkins owned a 4-4 record with a 3.50 ERA and 51 strikeouts against 14 walks in 48 innings pitched.

A survivor of leukemia, Hopkins has maintained a 3.16 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. He has donated his time as a youth sports instructor for the past two summers.

"He's a pretty special kid," said East Greenwich head coach Bob Downey. "He's our best player and our best hitter. He's a better shortstop than he is a pitcher, and he's a pretty good pitcher. He carries us at times. He does all the little things. He gives us a chance to win every time he takes the field, and we've faced some wicked competition. Our guys really look up to him."

Hopkins has verbally committed to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Rhode Island beginning in the fall of 2013.

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.

Hopkins joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Baseball Players of the Year Harrison Barlow (2010-11, South Kingstown High School), Anthony Aceto (2009-10, North Providence), Ryan Morris (2008-09; North Kingstown), and Ryan Westmoreland (2006-07 & 2007-08, Portsmouth), 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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