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Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Jonathan King of Riverdale High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year. King is the first Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverdale 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 King as Tennessee's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, King 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-11, 185-pound senior left-handed pitcher posted an 11-1 record with a 0.65 ERA and 91 strikeouts against just 17 walks in 65 innings pitched this past season, leading the Warriors (32-11) to the Class AAA state semifinals. A Perfect Game USA Preseason Honorable Mention All-Region selection, King, also an outfielder, batted .398 with 10 home runs and 34 RBI. He produced a .759 slugging percentage and .535 on-base percentage.

King has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth baseball instructor, he has volunteered as a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and mentors children as part of Riverdale's early childhood studies program.

"He's a two-way guy," said Craig Reavis, head coach at rival Siegel High. "He's the toughest out in our district, as well as the best pitcher in our district. Coaches in our area agreed that if we could have one kid on our team, it would be him. His attitude is great. He's just a great kid. He's got a good head on his shoulders, and he'll have a great career down there at Georgia Tech."

King has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Georgia Tech 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.

King joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Players of the Year Daniel Norris (2010-11, Science Hill High School), Ethan Bennett (2009-10, Farragut), Curt Powell (2008-09; Farragut), Sonny Gray (2007-08, Smyrna), and Taylor Hill (2006-07, Mt. Juliet), 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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