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**CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Courtney Hawkins of Carroll High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year. Hawkins is the first Gatorade Texas Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Carroll 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 Hawkins as Texas' best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Hawkins 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-4, 220-pound senior outfielder and right-handed pitcher led the Tigers (30-4) to the Class 5A regional final against Laredo Alexander High, scheduled for June 2. Hawkins owned a .412 batting average with 11 home runs, 38 RBIs and 17 stolen bases through 34 games. A 2011 First Team All-State selection, Hawkins also owned a 4-2 record with a 0.92 ERA and 48 strikeouts in 30.1 innings on the mound.

Hawkins has maintained an 88 average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Beyondthefences.org, a faith-based Christian collaborative to instill core values using baseball as a platform, and on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Courtney Hawkins is the best high school player I have seen in my 12 years of coaching," said Preston Rogers, head coach at Stevens High. "His physical ability and raw power and speed are just unbelievable. Carroll has eliminated us from the playoff three of the last four years and this kid has been a major factor in every game."

Hawkins has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Texas this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in next month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.

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.

Hawkins joins recent Gatorade Texas Baseball Players of the Year Josh Bell (2010-11, Jesuit College Preparatory School), Jameson Taillon (2009-10, The Woodlands), Shelby Miller (2008-09; Brownwood), Taylor Jungmann (2007-08, Georgetown), and Blake Beavan (2006-07, Irving), 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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