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**MT. MANSFIELD UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Cody Sharrow of Mt. Mansfield Union High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Vermont Baseball Player of the Year. Sharrow is the first Gatorade Vermont Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mt. Mansfield Union 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 Sharrow as Vermont's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Sharrow 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, 170-pound senior shortstop/right-handed pitcher led the Cougars to a 12-4 record entering the Div. I state playoffs against St. Johnsbury, scheduled for May 30. Through 16 games, Sharrow owned a .538 batting average with 21 RBI at the plate along with a 5-1 record and a 1.75 ERA on the mound. Sharrow is a two-time All-Metro selection.

Sharrow has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. Also a basketball standout, he has volunteered locally on behalf of athletic programs for special needs students.

"Sharrow is a great all-around player," said John Learned, head coach at Milton High. "He's a very, very solid shortstop who hits well, and he's a well-rounded pitcher too. He's pretty masterful when he's on his game, which is most of the time."

Sharrow has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at South Dakota State 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.

Sharrow joins recent Gatorade Vermont Baseball Players of the Year Nick Swim (2010-11, Bellows Free Academy), Adam Picard (2009-10, Essex), Ryan Carter (2008-09; Proctor), Greg Lutton (2007-08, Mt. Abraham Union), and Casey Harman (2006-07, South Burlington), 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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