

**Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)**

**MCDONELL CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WISCONSIN 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 Kyle Cody of McDonell Central Catholic High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Player of the Year. Cody is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from McDonell Central Catholic 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 Cody as Wisconsin's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award announced in May, Cody 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-7, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Macks (14-6) to the Division IV sectional tournament, scheduled to begin May 29. At the time of his selection, Cody owned a 4-0 record with a 0.76 ERA and 74 strikeouts in 37 innings-pitched. A 2011 First Team All-State honoree, he also batted .419 with 12 RBIs and 11 runs scored through 20 games.

Cody has maintained a 3.45 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an area homeless shelter, as a youth baseball camp counselor and as part of multiple clean-up initiatives in his town.

"Kyle Cody is an extremely hard worker and a goal-oriented individual," said McDonell Central Catholic High head coach Eric Wedemeyer. "He sets his mind to a goal and strives to be the best that he can be."

Cody has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Cody joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Players of the Year Sam Mahar (2010-11, Tremper High School), Bobby Juan (2009-10, Central), Brad Schreiber (2008-09; Kimberly), Phil Schreiber (2007-08, Kaukauna), and Nick Rice (2006-07, Tremper), 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).

###