

Mayor Coleman Declares Joe Mauer Day in Saint Paul in Honor of Native Son
"Proclamation recognizes achievement of American League's Most Valuable Player"

SAINT PAUL - Mayor Chris Coleman declared Nov. 24, 2009, as Joe Mauer Day in Saint Paul after the Minnesota Twins catcher earned his first American League Most Valuable Player Award on Monday.

A Saint Paul kid from the start, Mauer's baseball career was born and raised in the city, following in the footsteps of Hall of Fame players Paul Molitor and Dave Winfield. Beginning at one of Saint Paul's recreation centers, Joe's career took off early. He was a three-sport prep athlete playing for Cretin-Derham Hall High School, and he was the first prep athlete to be selected as the USA Today Player of the Year in two sports, both football and baseball.

He passed up a scholarship offer to play collegiate football in order to enter the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft in 2001. The Minnesota Twins made him the first selection of the draft in 2001, and he made his major league debut in 2004.

In addition to winning one of the biggest honors in Major League Baseball, in 2009 Mauer also won his third American League batting title and his second Golden Glove Award for American League catchers. In his short career, Mauer has been named to the American League All-Star team three times.

"This day honors Joe's success as a player and a Saint Paul talent," Mayor Coleman said. "On city fields, Joe was able to develop his skills to become the best player in the country. His success proves to other children growing up in Saint Paul that, through hard work and determination, children with dreams can live it and reach the top of their game."

Mauer was a near unanimous choice for Most Valuable Player, receiving 27 of 28 votes. He is only the second catcher in 33 years to be named American League MVP. He also was the second player in nearly 30 years to lead the league in batting average (.365), on-base percentage (.444), and slugging percentage (.587).

Saint Paul has a proud tradition of baseball, partnering through the Friends of Saint Paul Baseball and RBI programs to continually support and advance baseball for youth. Funds raised through events like the Joe Mauer Golf Tournament are the result of this thriving partnership. Both programs are dedicated to enhancing facilities and opportunities for baseball in Saint Paul. These initiatives are possible because of Joe and his family's participation, leadership and passion for the game.