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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**AYALA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jessica Hall of Ayala High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade California Softball Player of the Year. Hall is the first Gatorade California Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ayala 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 Hall as California's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Hall joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Angela Tincher (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-9 senior left-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Bulldogs (29-5) to the Southern Section Division III championship this past season, posting a 28-3 record and a 0.68 earned run average. The most valuable player of the prestigious Faster to First Tournament in March, Hall recorded 336 strikeouts and issued just 28 walks, firing four no-hitters, including two perfect games. She allowed only 82 hits in 204.2 innings. At the plate, she batted .340 with five home runs, 26 runs, 32 RBI and a .592 slugging percentage.

Hall has maintained an unweighted 3.36 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and instructor.

"Jessica Hall throws all the pitches necessary to be good," said Mike Smith, head coach of rival Chino High. "What makes her good also is she has such good control, she can throw her change or her rise on a full count and she's still able to baffle the batters. She's dominant because she has every pitch and can throw them all at any time of the game."

Hall has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at UCLA 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 ESPN RISE 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.

Hall joins recent Gatorade California Softball Players of the Year Keilani Ricketts (2008-09, Archbishop Mitty), Jessica Spigner (2007-08, Valencia) and Jordan Taylor (2006-07, Valencia) 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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