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**LEGACY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Shelby Babcock of Legacy High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year. Babcock is the first Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Legacy 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 Babcock as Colorado's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Babcock 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 state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Babcock produced a 22-0 record with a 0.06 ERA and 211 strikeouts in 127 innings this past season, leading the Lightning (22-0-1) to their third consecutive Class 5A state championship. The 5-foot-11 senior right-handed pitcher is a four-time First Team All-State selection and a three-time *Denver Post* Player of the Year. Babcock has also been named the Class 5A State Tournament MVP each of the last three seasons.

Babcock has maintained a weighted 3.11 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of programs for area senior citizens and has donated her time to youth camps and pitching clinics.

"Babcock is absolutely one of the best pitchers to have ever come out of the state," said Tod Bunker, head coach at rival Arvada West High. "She throws harder than most kids, but she's got good placement on her pitches too."

Babcock has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Arizona 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.

Babcock joins recent Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year Mallory Duran (2007-08 & 2006-07, Windsor) 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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