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**MARET SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Caroline Sealander of Maret School as its 2009-10 Gatorade District of Columbia Softball Player of the Year. Sealander is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Maret 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 Sealander as District of Columbia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Sealander 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-11 junior right-handed pitcher finished 13-2 with a 0.20 ERA this season, leading the Frogs (13-2) to the Independent School League AA Division championship game, where they eventually fell to Saint Stephen's/Saint Agnes, 4-2. A Washington D.C. Softball Classic All-Star Game selection, Sealander recorded 243 strikeouts and issued just 14 walks in 104 innings and batted .650 with 22 RBI, 17 runs scored and four home runs. In addition to setting her school's single-season strikeout record this spring, she broke Maret's single-game strikeout record by fanning 24 batters in a 13-inning victory against Saint Stephen's/Saint Agnes during the regular season.

Also an accomplished flutist, Sealander has maintained a 3.45 unweighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth softball instructor and participated in the school musical as a member of the pit orchestra.

"She's made a huge impact on our program," said Maret Head Coach Tim Emerson. "She struck out 2.3 people per inning, and she was our leading hitter. I think she threw two bad pitches all year, and she's a remarkable batter. She also grew into a leader this year, which was so unbelievably wonderful. She doesn't know how many strikeouts she has in a game—she's not that kind of person. Everything is a byproduct of her wonderful skill and the focus she has."

Sealander will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Sealander joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Softball Players of the Year Christina Clark (2008-09, Georgetown Visitation) and Alie Kolbe (2007-08 & 2006-07, National Cathedral) 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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