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**ARCHMERE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Rachel Gillen of Archmere Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year. Gillen is the first Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archmere Academy.

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 Gillen as Delaware's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gillen 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, the 5-foot-9 junior left-handed pitcher finished 18-2 with a 0.21 ERA this season, leading the Auks (18-2) to the state quarterfinals, where they eventually fell in 10 innings to Smyrna, 2-1. A 2009 All-American as named by both Under Armour and EA Sports, Gillen recorded 334 strikeouts and issued just 18 walks in 134 innings and batted .661 with 34 runs scored, 22 RBI and five home runs. As a sophomore, she finished 17-4 with a 0.31 ERA, fanning 295 batters in 135 innings and compiling a .754 batting average, 30 runs scored, 27 RBI and seven home runs.

Gillen has maintained a 3.17 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to making meals for the homeless in association with two area charities, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, as part of a literacy-outreach program and as a youth pitching instructor. Gillen has also served as a junior ambassador to the Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens organization, which assists people with intellectual disabilities.

"Rachel Gillen has been one of the recent pioneers of softball at Archmere Academy and in the state of Delaware," said Archmere Head Coach MaryPat Kwoka. "She has contributed monumentally to three successful seasons. She is a remarkable pitcher, a tremendous hitter, a solid fielder and an excellent baserunner. As a junior captain with great leadership skills, she is the complete package. It has been an honor and a privilege to watch Rachel's intensity, desire and drive grow stronger over her career."

Gillen has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of Virginia beginning in the fall of 2011.

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.

Gillen joins recent Gatorade Delaware Softball Players of the Year Erika Brittingham (2007-08, Sussex Central) and Brandy Jester (2006-07, Sussex Central) 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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