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BCLUW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® IOWA 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 Jamie Fisher of BCLUW High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year. Fisher is the first Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from BCLUW 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 Fisher as Iowa's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fisher 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-7 senior right-handed pitcher led the Comets (37-4) to the Class 2A state title last season, posting a 35-2 record and a 0.14 ERA along with 479 strikeouts against only 14 walks in 255 innings. At the plate, she batted .400 with three home runs and 44 RBI. The 2009 All-State Elite Team Pitcher of the Year, Fisher hurled a complete-game, two-hit shutout and recorded 17 strikeouts in the Class 2A state final against Emmetsburg.

Fisher has maintained an unweighted 3.89 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her church community, she has volunteered locally at a day care and as a youth softball coach.

"We play a Class 4A schedule and Jamie Fisher throws as well as anyone I've seen in the big class," said Mike Vint, head coach of rival Marshalltown High. "She can throw all kinds of off-speed and breaking stuff. From what I saw last summer, there was no one better than her."

Fisher has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Northern Iowa 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.

Fisher joins recent Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year Sammy Snygg (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-07, North Polk) 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.