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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**MOUNT CARMEL ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Meghan Patterson of Mount Carmel Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year. Patterson is the first Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Carmel 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 Patterson as Louisiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Patterson 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-8 senior pitcher led the Cubs (24-9) to the Class 5A state quarterfinals this past season, posting a 24-9 record and a 0.34 earned run average while recording 451 strikeouts and issuing only 26 walks. The 2008-09 Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year, Patterson recorded seven no-hitters, as well as 19 shutouts, allowing only 41 hits in 246 innings. At the plate, the 2008 and 2009 Class 5A State Player of the Year batted .351 with eight doubles and 23 RBI this spring.

Patterson has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at the Ochsner Medical Center in Kenner and as a youth softball coach and instructor.

"We tried to hit the girl from Mount Carmel, unsuccessfully," said Mark Rosier, head coach of rival Alexandria High. "Meghan Patterson throws the ball pretty hard with a lot of movement. We tried to hit it and couldn't so we went to an all-out 'Let's just bunt it and see if we can get something going.' Patterson is pretty special."

Patterson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Louisiana State University 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.

Patterson joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Softball Players of the Year Kelee Grimes (2007-08, Pineville) and Ashley Brignac (2006-07, John Curtis Christian) 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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