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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**BROADNECK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Kourtney Salvarola of Broadneck High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year. Salvarola is the first Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Broadneck 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 Salvarola as Maryland's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Salvarola 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-6 senior pitcher and shortstop led the Bruins (22-2) to their second straight Class 4A state championship this past season, posting a 14-2 record and a 1.17 earned run average while recording 125 strikeouts and issuing just 33 walks. The No. 5-ranked player in the country by ESPN RISE, Salvarola fired three no-hitters, including one perfect game, allowing only 37 hits in 102 innings. Maryland's all-time career leader with 32 home runs, she batted .531 with eight doubles, four home runs and 30 runs scored this spring.

Salvarola has maintained a weighted 3.80 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and instructor.

"All Kourtney Salvarola does is put it together when she has to," said Don Ellenberger, head coach of rival Chesapeake High. "If you want somebody to perform and you need to put your house on the bet, she's one of the top people you want in the circle or at bat. She has grit and determination—you can't teach that. You're born with that kind of desire."

Salvarola has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of South Florida 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.

Salvarola joins recent Gatorade Maryland Softball Players of the Year Melanie Mitchell (2008-09, McDonough), Lauren Gibson (2007-08, Chesapeake) and Kerry Hickey (2006-07, Huntingtown) 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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