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**BANGOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Sam Bedore of Bangor High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year. Bedore is the first Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bangor 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 Bedore as Maine's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bedore 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-9 senior right-handed pitcher has led the Rams (14-1) to first place in the Class A Eastern Conference entering this week's state tournament. At the time of her selection, Bedore owned a 14-1 record on the mound with a 0.22 ERA and 184 strikeouts in 96 innings while batting .439 with a 1.001 OPS. A two-time First Team All-State selection and the 2009 Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference North Player of the Year, Bedore had compiled career totals of 44 wins against just seven losses along with 594 strikeouts through 15 games this season.

Bedore has maintained a weighted 3.21 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Ronald McDonald House Charities and as part of multiple community-cleanup initiatives as well as a bottle-return fundraiser.

"I've never been around a player who puts forth as much effort into the game as Sam Bedore," said Bangor High Head Coach Don Stanhope. "She has incredible talent and a work ethic that is second to none."

Bedore has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Rhode Island 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.

Bedore joins recent Gatorade Maine Softball Players of the Year Hannah Hill (2008-09 & 2007-08, Fryeburg Academy) and Kelsey Griffin (2006-07, Scarborough) 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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