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**EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Sara Moulton of Eagan High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Minnesota Softball Player of the Year. Moulton is the first Gatorade Minnesota Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Eagan 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 Moulton as Minnesota's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Moulton 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-7 senior right-handed pitcher finished 21-2 with a 0.30 ERA this season, recording 274 strikeouts and issuing just 16 walks, leading the Wildcats (23-2) to the Class AAA sectional finals, where they eventually fell to Burnsville, 1-0. A two-time returning Class AAA First Team All-State selection as named by the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches Association, Moulton batted .308 with 16 runs scored and seven RBI this spring. As a junior, she finished 24-6 with a 0.44 ERA and 372 strikeouts in 208 innings. Moulton also produced a 21-2 record with 0.41 ERA and 268 strikeouts in 169 innings as a sophomore, leading Eagan to the 2008 Class AAA state title.

Moulton has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's French Club, she has volunteered locally as part of Eagan's peer mentoring program, at a homeless shelter and as a youth softball instructor.

"Sara dominates the game any time she steps on the mound," said Penny Witzenburg, head coach of rival Jefferson High. "She's a presence both hitting and pitching. People talk about her pitching, but she's a talented all-around player. And she's a smart player. Sara has a very good command of her pitches. If she misses, it's not a ball by very much, so she gets a lot of people to chase. We play in one of the top conferences in Minnesota, so we play a lot of talented pitchers, and she's the top right now."

Moulton has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Moulton joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Softball Players of the Year Chelsey Durland (2007-08, Orono) and Brynne Dordel (2006-07, Chaska) 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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