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**PIEDRA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Karysta Donisthorpe of Piedra Vista High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Mexico Softball Player of the Year. Donisthorpe is the first Gatorade New Mexico Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Piedra Vista 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 Donisthorpe as New Mexico's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Donisthorpe 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 junior right-handed pitcher finished 26-2 with a 0.69 ERA and 346 strikeouts in 161.1 innings this season, leading the Panthers (26-2) to a fifth consecutive Class 4A state championship. A two-time returning Class 4A First Team All-State selection, Donisthorpe also batted .341 with 24 runs scored and 12 RBI. She set the state's single-game record when she struck out 19 Aztec High batters during an 8-1 victory in April. Donisthorpe also helped lead Piedra Vista to the 2008 and 2009 state titles.

Donisthorpe has maintained a 3.72 unweighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, her church's youth group and as a youth sports coach.

"Donisthorpe controls every big game," said Roy Johnson, head coach of rival Kirtland High. "She's by far the best pitcher in the state. She plays the best teams, and she wins. They haven't been beaten by a New Mexico school in two years. As a pitcher, she has about four different pitches that she throws for strikes. She has a fastball, roll, changeup and the rise—that's the strikeout pitch. She's also a good hitter. This year, she added some pop into her swing. She makes a big impact hitting and pitching. She has all the tools."

Donisthorpe has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the New Mexico State University beginning in the fall of 2011.

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.

Donisthorpe joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Softball Players of the Year Melissa Martinez (2008-09 & 2007-08, Cibola) and Karisa Medrano (2006-07, St. Pius X) 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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