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**SPANISH SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEVADA 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 Karlyn Jones of Spanish Springs High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year. Jones is the second Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Spanish Springs 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 Jones as Nevada's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Jones 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 right-handed pitcher produced a 24-1 record with a 0.46 ERA this past season, notching 229 strikeouts against just three walks in 152 innings as the Cougars (33-1) won the Class 4A state championship. The High Desert League Pitcher of the Year, Jones also batted .485 with four home runs and 43 RBI. She was a First Team All-State selection in 2009.

Jones has maintained a weighted 3.45 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a fund-raising campaign to benefit cancer research and youth softball programs.

"Jones is surgical in the way she throws," said Jimmy Gleich, head coach of rival North Valleys High. "She can be a power pitcher, spin pitcher, spot pitcher. She can beat you in any way."

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

Jones joins recent Gatorade Nevada Softball Players of the Year Chelsea Cohen (2008-09, Reed) and Mallary Darby (2007-08 & 2006-07, Spanish Springs) 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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