

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Ellen Renfroe of Trinity Christian Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year. Renfroe is the first Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Trinity Christian Academy.

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 Renfroe as Tennessee's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Renfroe 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-10 senior right-handed pitcher finished 40-2 with a 0.15 ERA this season, leading the Lions (49-2) to their fourth Class A state championship in five years. The 2008 Player of the Year and 2009 Pitcher of the Year as named by *The Jackson Sun*, Renfroe recorded 545 strikeouts and issued just 14 walks in 271 innings, allowing only one run over 17 innings while striking out 19 in consecutive victories against Grace Baptist Academy to capture the state title this spring. A three-time returning Class A All-State selection as named by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association, she batted .340 with 55 runs scored, 44 RBI and 11 doubles. Renfroe also helped lead Trinity Christian to the 2006, 2008 and 2009 Class A state championships.

Renfroe has maintained a 4.60 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and her area's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church, as part of a Vacation Bible School, as a youth softball instructor and on behalf of relief efforts to benefit victims of tornados.

"Ellen has always played with a mission," said Trinity Christian Head Coach Robert Craft. "She is completely focused on the mound and takes her game very seriously. She is an extreme motivator and encourager for her teammates, and is usually established as the leader quickly. She is also a hard-worker in practice, and she practices just like it's a game situation. She has spent countless hours pitching since she was 8 years old. Her work ethic goes beyond anything I can put into words."

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

Renfroe joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Softball Players of the Year Kelsey Cartwright (2008-09, Goodpasture), Holly Thomas (2007-08, Ooltewah) and Baillie Lott (2006-07, Brentwood) 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.

###