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**FORT BEND BAPTIST ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TEXAS 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 Rachel Fox of Fort Bend Baptist Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year. Fox is the first Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fort Bend Baptist 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 Fox as Texas' best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fox 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-4 senior pitcher led the Eagles (31-5) to a second straight Texas Association of Parochial and Private Schools Class 4A state championship this past season, posting a 31-5 record and a 0.07 earned run average while recording 438 strikeouts and issuing just 15 walks. The 2008-09 Gatorade Texas Softball Player of the Year, Fox recorded 11 no-hitters, including seven perfect games, as well as 26 shutouts, allowing 52 hits in 211.1 innings. At the plate, Fox batted .400 with seven triples, eight doubles and 28 RBI this spring.

Fox has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the Big Sister/Little Sister Club at Fort Bend Baptist Academy, she has completed a service-mission trip to Mexico and has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and a food bank.

"I can't say anything bad about Rachel Fox," said Ken Glass, head coach of the Texas Eclipse Gold Amateur Athletics Union club program. "She's a big-time player. We always say Rachel is one of the few pitchers in the state who can handle the California teams. She's the real deal."

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

Fox joins recent Gatorade Texas Softball Players of the Year Whitney Canion (2007-08, Aledo) and Brittany Barnhill (2006-07, Northwest) 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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