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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**SOUTH COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Chelsey Dunham of South County Secondary School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Virginia Softball Player of the Year. Dunham is the first Gatorade Virginia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from South County Secondary 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 Dunham as Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Dunham 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-6 senior right-handed pitcher led the Stallions to a 25-1 record this season and the Group AAA, Northern Region semifinals. A two-time Northern Region Pitcher of the Year and a four-time Patriot District Pitcher of the Year, Dunham compiled a 25-1 record and a 0.19 earned run average in the pitching circle this spring, recording 314 strikeouts in 184 innings and issuing just 23 walks. She fired seven no-hitters, including a perfect game, and pitched 21 shutouts. At the plate, she batted .295 with 13 walks and 18 RBI.

Dunham has maintained a weighted 4.30 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her church community, she has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank in addition to serving as a peer science and math tutor at South County.

"Chelsey Dunham is unflappable," said Suzy Willemsen, Dunham's head coach with the Glory Gold Amateur Athletics Union club program. "She's one of the most competitive players I've ever seen, and the more tense it gets, the more she loves it. She lives and practices for that moment when things are tense."

Dunham will attend Yale University beginning this fall, where she will play softball.

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.

Dunham joins recent Gatorade Virginia Softball Players of the Year Caroline Williams (2008-09, Loudoun Valley) and Caitlyn Delahaba (2007-08 & 2006-07, Broad Run) 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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