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**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Alexis Perry of Essex High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Vermont Softball Player of the Year. Perry is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Essex 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 Perry as Vermont's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Perry 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 sophomore right-handed pitcher owned a 13-1 record this season with a 0.16 ERA entering the Division I semifinals against Missisquoi. An Honorable Mention All-Metro selection as a freshman, Perry had recorded 151 strikeouts in 88.1 innings at the time of her selection, leading the Hornets to a 17-1 record. She also helped Essex to the 2009 state title.

Perry has maintained an A average in the classroom. An active member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs.

"She's young, but she has great composure," said Bert Berthiaume, head coach of rival Bellows Free Academy. "She's the hardest thrower that I've seen this year, and she's got a devastating changeup."

Perry will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Perry joins recent Gatorade Vermont Softball Players of the Year Stephanie Frank (2008-09 & 2007-08, Essex) and Amanda Downey (2006-07, Essex) 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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