

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**KAUKAUNA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® WISCONSIN SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced McKinzie Freimuth of Kaukauna High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Player of the Year. Freimuth is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kaukauna 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 Freimuth as Wisconsin's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Freimuth 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 junior first baseman owned a .476 batting average with 25 runs scored, 13 RBI and eight doubles entering this week's Division 1 sectional semifinals. A two-time returning First Team All-State selection as named by the Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association, Freimuth had led the Galloping Ghosts to a 23-2 record at the time of her selection. She batted .542 as a sophomore and .516 as a freshman, helping lead Kaukauna to the 2008 Division 1 sectional semifinals.

Also a volleyball standout, Freimuth has maintained a 3.85 unweighted GPA in the classroom and has served on her school's student council. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics in addition to donating her time as a youth softball and volleyball instructor.

"McKinzie has stepped up from Day 1 in high school both academically and on the field," said Kaukauna Head Coach Tim Roehrig. "Her accomplishments on the field are second to none. She brings a certain presence to any team that makes all of those around her better. I have coached many great student-athletes over the past 10 seasons and very few possess the combination of quality attributes that McKinzie does."

Freimuth has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin beginning in the fall of 2011.

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.

Freimuth joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Players of the Year Claudia Harke (2008-09, Kimberly), Alyssa Roberts (2007-08, Bradford) and Stephanie Schmikla (2006-07, McFarland) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

###