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**ST. ALBANS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WEST 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 Samantha Snodgrass of St. Albans High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year. Snodgrass is the second Gatorade West Virginia Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Albans 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 Snodgrass as West Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Snodgrass 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-5 senior right-handed pitcher posted a 25-1 record with a 0.37 ERA and 271 strikeouts in 150 innings, leading the Red Dragons (34-1) to their first Class AAA state championship. The Kanawha Valley Player of the Year, Snodgrass also batted .443 with 13 home runs and 55 RBI. She was a First Team All-State selection in each of the last two years.

Snodgrass has maintained a weighted 4.06 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered as a student teacher at an area elementary school and on behalf of a local fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research.

"She's a great player and a great kid," said Mike Moyers, head coach of rival South Charleston High. "She can beat you on the mound or with the bat."

Snodgrass has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Youngstown State University 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.

Snodgrass joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Softball Players of the Year Andi Williamson (2008-09, Chapmanville Regional), Kiarra Chappelle (2007-08, Huntington) and Margaret Osborne (2006-07, St. Albans) 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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