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**WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Pauline Tufi of West Anchorage High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year. Tufi is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Anchorage 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 Tufi as Alaska's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Tufi 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-10 sophomore shortstop and catcher led the Eagles (26-4) to the Large School state championship this past season. The Cook Inlet Conference Player of the Year, Tufi batted .603 during the regular season and conference tournament play along with 45 runs scored, 32 RBI, 12 doubles, five home runs and three triples, producing a 1.026 slugging percentage and .648 on-base percentage. Also a right-handed pitcher, she finished 10-3 on the mound entering the state tournament with 89 strikeouts against just 16 walks. A two-time Large School All-Tournament Team selection, Tufi led the Arctic Storm to the 2010 Amateur Softball Association U16 state championship this past summer.

Also a basketball, hockey, volleyball and track standout, Tufi has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of Bean's Café homeless shelter, the Salvation Army and the Alaska Run for Women to benefit breast cancer research.

"Pauline Tufi is probably the best all-around player in Alaska," said Andy Fowkes, head coach of rival South Anchorage High. "She gets the job done, and she does it the good way. Her hitting is probably her biggest asset, but some people might argue she's the best pitcher, too. At the plate, she has a great swing. She sees the ball well, and she's disciplined. Defensively, when she's in the field, she's one of the best."

Tufi 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.

Tufi joins recent Gatorade Alaska Softball Players of the Year two-time winner Brittany Fenumiai (2008-2009 & 2009-10, Juneau-Douglas) and Carrie Ann Laliberte (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas), 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).

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