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**CANYON DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Mattie Fowler of Canyon del Oro High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arizona Softball Player of the Year. Fowler is the second Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Canyon del Oro 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 Fowler as Arizona's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fowler 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-9 senior shortstop and right-handed pitcher led the Dorados (36-1) to the Class 4A, Division I state championship this past season. Fowler batted .569 with 17 home runs, 22 doubles, 49 runs scored and a state-record 91 RBI. In the circle, she posted a 14-0 record with a 0.85 ERA and 74 strikeouts in 82 innings pitched. A three-time National Fast Pitch Coaches Association, Academic All-American selection, Fowler was a 2010 Class 4A First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep softball career with 19 home runs and 168 RBI, both school records.

Fowler has maintained a weighted 4.35 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's chapter of Key Club International, she organized a city-wide dance for special-needs kids. She also volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research and a city beautification project.

"I saw too much of Mattie Fowler this year," said Jeff Fowler, head coach of rival Sabino High. "She's fantastic. She's a good shortstop, a good pitcher and a really good hitter. She just stepped up her game. She took that team and put it on her back. She's not the most dominating pitcher, but she has so much control of herself and her emotions, she knows what to do on every pitch."

Fowler has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

Fowler joins recent Gatorade Arizona Softball Players of the Year Dallas Escobedo (2009-10, St. Mary's Catholic) and three-time winner and sister Kenzie Fowler (2006-2007, 2007-08 & 2008-09, Canyon del Oro), 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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