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**FOREMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Kimmy Beasley of Foreman High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arkansas Softball Player of the Year. Beasley is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Foreman 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 Beasley as Arkansas's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Beasley 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 6-foot senior left-handed pitcher led the Gators (32-2) to their sixth straight Class 2A state championship this past season. Beasley posted a 32-2 record in the circle along with a 0.15 ERA, striking out 393 batters in 236 innings pitched. She recorded seven no-hitters, including four perfect games, and a state-record 22 shutouts. At the plate, the two-time Class 2A state MVP batted .467 with nine doubles, 43 runs scored and 30 RBI. Beasley concluded her prep softball career No. 1 in state history with 1,122 strikeouts.

Foreman has maintained a 3.03 GPA in the classroom. Active with her church youth group, she has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research and as a youth softball coach.

"Thank goodness we only had to face Kimmy Beasley and her team one time," said Brian Nivens, head coach of Magnet Cove High, which lost to Foreman in the 2A state title game. "What impressed me the most was the poise and maturity she carried to the circle with her. Sure, she's great mechanically and she can throw four pitches for strikes, but she carries herself like a pro. That's what impressed me the most."

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

Beasley joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Softball Players of the Year Shelby Jo Fenter (2009-10, West Memphis) and two-time winner Shelby Wise (2007-08 & 2008-09, Nettleton), 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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