

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Woullard (312) 729-3627

**RODRIGUEZ HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA 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 Cheyenne Cordes of Rodriguez High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade California Softball Player of the Year. Cordes is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rodriguez 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 Cordes as California's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Cordes 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-4 senior shortstop led the Mustangs (28-3) to the Sac-Joaquin Section Division III championship this past season. Cordes batted .652 with 12 home runs, 18 doubles, 64 runs scored, 66 RBI and 32 stolen bases, committing just one error in the field. A member of the 2010-11 USA Softball Junior Women's National Team that won a gold medal at the 18-Under Pan American Championship in Colombia in August, 2010, she also led the Lady Magic to first place at the ASA/USA Girls' 16-and-under Class-A Fastpitch National Championship in 2008.

Cordes has maintained an unweighted 3.63 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research and as a youth softball coach.

"Cheyenne's hitting makes her shine, but when you look at her position, she is a communicator, she's a leader, she takes control," said Joe Henderson, Cordes' coach with the Lady Magic. "She is someone who is outspoken. Teams build off that synergy that she drives, that's what makes her so special."

Cordes has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of California-Berkeley 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.

Cordes joins recent Gatorade California Softball Players of the Year Jessica Hall (2009-10, Ayala), Keilani Ricketts (2008-09, Archbishop Mitty) and Jessica Spigner (2007-08, Valencia), 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.

###