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**LEGACY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Rainey Gaffin of Legacy High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year. Gaffin is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Legacy 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 Gaffin as Colorado's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gaffin 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 junior right-handed pitcher led the Lightning (25-0) to their fourth consecutive Class 5A state championship this past season. Gaffin posted a 23-0 record on the mound with a 0.98 ERA, also batting .693 with three home runs and 41 RBI. She was MVP of the Class 5A state tournament, a First Team All-State selection and the Denver Post All-Colorado Player of the Year.

Gaffin has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor in her school system, she has volunteered locally delivering food to the needy and collecting sports equipment donations for underprivileged school districts.

"We didn't face another player with the combined talent of Rainey Gaffin," said Brian Stebbins, head coach at rival Douglas County High. "She's a dominant pitcher as well as a huge threat at the plate."

Gaffin will begin her senior 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.

Gaffin joins recent Gatorade Colorado Softball Players of the Year two-time winner Shelby Babcock (2008-09 & 2009-10, Legacy) and Mallory Duran (2007-08, Windsor), 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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