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**ARCHMERE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Rachel Gillen of Archmere Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year. Gillen is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Archmere Academy.

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 Gillen as Delaware's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gillen 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 left-handed pitcher finished 18-1 on the mound with a 0.41 ERA and 253 strikeouts against just 15 walks in 120 innings this past season, leading the Auks (18-1) to the state tournament. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Gillen hurled 12 shutouts and five no-hitters. Also a two-time Under Armour All-American Softball Game selection, she batted .679 along with 31 RBI, 30 runs scored, eight doubles, five triples and four home runs. Gillen concluded her prep career with a 69-10 record, a 0.33 ERA and 1,150 strikeouts against 87 walks in 515 innings. She batted .634 along with 110 runs scored, 105 RBI and 19 home runs in her four seasons at Archmere Academy. Gillen is one of only eight players nationally in the award's history to earn Gatorade State Softball Player of the Year honors three times.

Gillen has maintained a 3.22 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to making meals for the homeless on behalf of two local charities, she has volunteered for the Special Olympics, as part of a literacy-outreach program and as a youth pitching instructor. Gillen has also served as a junior ambassador to the Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens organization to benefit people with intellectual challenges.

"Rachel Gillen is fantastic," said Randy Johnson, head coach of rival Caravel Academy. "She's a great kid, too. If she won the award 10 times in a row, she'd deserve it."

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

Three-time winner Gillen joins recent Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year Erika Brittingham (2007-08, Sussex Central), 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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