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**DUNNELLON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Sami Fagan of Dunnellon High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year. Fagan is the second Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dunnellon 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 Fagan as Florida's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fagan 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 senior shortstop batted .693 with four doubles, three triples, 51 runs scored, 17 RBI and 28 steals this past season, leading the Tigers (21-6) to the Class 4A regional quarterfinals. A 2010 ESPN RISE Second Team All-American and a 2009 National Fastpitch Coaches Association First Team All-American, Fagan is a two-time state Defensive Player of the Year. She garnered a state-record 63-game hit streak between 2009 and 2010 and concluded her prep softball career with a .629 batting average, 234 runs scored and 141 stolen bases in 119 games.

Fagan has maintained an unweighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom, having never received any grade other than an A in high school. A peer tutor, she has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and as a mentor in association with her church.

"Sami Fagan is very versatile, she can play shortstop, she can catch, she can play center field which is the toughest outfield position," said Coy Adkins, Fagan's coach with Team North Florida. "She can play anywhere other than the corners, and she could probably do that. I think, hands down, Sami Fagan is the best player in the state."

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

Fagan joins recent Gatorade Florida Softball Players of the Year two-time winner Kasey Fagan (2008-09 & 2009-10, Dunnellon) and Jaclyn Traina (2007-08, Naples), 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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