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**LAKE CITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Casey Stangel of Lake City High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year. Stangel is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake City 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 Stangel as Idaho's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Stangel 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 sophomore left-handed pitcher finished 25-0 on the mound with a 0.33 ERA this past season, leading the Timberwolves (26-0) to the Class 5A state championship. The two-time Class 5A Inland Empire League Most Valuable Player, Stangel recorded 283 strikeouts against 31 walks in 149 innings, compiling 17 shutouts and two no-hitters. Also a first baseman, she batted .590 along with 52 RBI, 36 runs scored, 16 doubles and 11 home runs. A returning adidas "Futures" All-Star Game selection, Stangel produced a 1.205 slugging percentage and .611 on-base percentage. She set Lake City High single-season records for strikeouts and doubles as a freshman.

Stangel has maintained a 3.71 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a leader of her church's youth group, she has volunteered as a youth softball instructor.

"I've been in softball for a lot of years, and she's the best pitcher I've ever seen come through the state of Idaho," said Dave Garrett, head coach of rival Lewiston High. "Against us, she was dominating. She pretty much kept our offense in check for the four games we faced her. She has the ability to rear back and get the strikeout when she needs to. She can get those extra few miles per hour on her pitches—and locate them wherever she wants to."

Stangel will begin her junior 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.

Stangel joins recent Gatorade Idaho Softball Players of the Year, two-time winner Nickayla Skinner (2008-09 & 2009-10, Mountain Home) and Joni Cook (2007-08, Eagle), 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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