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Contact: Adam Woullard (312) 729-3627

**CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Kelsi Jones of Carmel High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Carmel 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 Jones as Indiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Jones 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-5 senior center fielder has led the Greyhounds (27-2) to the Class 4A state finals against Avon, scheduled for June 11. At the time of her selection, Jones owned a .484 batting average with seven home runs, 14 doubles and 33 RBI. A member of the Indianapolis Star Super Team, she has twice been named a First Team High School All-American by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

Jones has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally raising funds to benefit cancer research, serving as a tutor in her school and on behalf of youth sports programs.

"Jones is just a great player all-around," said Mark Pierson, head coach of rival Fishers High. "She can spray the ball to any field, she can hit with power or she can get that seeing-eye base hit when you need it. She also has tremendous defensive skills."

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

Jones joins recent Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Morgan Lewis (2009-10, Lutheran), Mel Dumezich (2008-09, Whiting) and Katie Hackney (2007-08, Huntington North), 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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