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**WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® IOWA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jadyn Spencer of West High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year. Spencer is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from West 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 Spencer as Iowa's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Spencer 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-11 senior right-handed pitcher and infielder posted a 15-4 record along with a 1.44 ERA and 217 strikeouts in 134.1 innings pitched last season, leading the Wahawks to the Class 4A regional final. The 2010 Iowa Girls Coaches Association Player of the Year, Spencer also batted .613 with 16 home runs, 59 RBIs and a 1.226 slugging percentage.

Spencer has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and graduated as the valedictorian of her class. A devoted parishioner in her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and at an area food bank.

"When I coached against her, Jadyn Spencer was the one player we didn't want to let beat us," said Waterloo West Head Coach Tammy Utley, who coached for rival Cedar Falls in 2010. "She is the epitome of a complete ballplayer who can hurt you in so many ways."

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

Spencer joins recent Gatorade Iowa Softball Players of the Year Jamie Fisher (2009-10, BCLUW) and two-time Sammy Snygg (2007-08 & 2008-09, North Polk), 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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