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**CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Griffin Joiner of Christian County High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year. Joiner is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Christian County 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 Joiner as Kentucky's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Joiner 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-4 senior right-handed pitcher, catcher and third baseman batted .654 with 18 doubles, 18 home runs, 33 runs scored and 66 RBI this past season, leading the Colonels to the 2nd Region Tournament semifinals. In the circle, Joiner posted a 20-2 record with a 1.73 ERA, striking out 110 batters in 105 innings pitched. A 2010 First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep softball career No. 2 in state history with 30 home runs and 216 RBI.

Joiner has maintained an unweighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom and will graduate as her school's salutatorian. She has volunteered locally as a peer math tutor and a youth softball coach, and she has donated her time as a motivational speaker at area elementary schools.

"At the plate, because of her ability to not just play but to learn the game, Griffin recognizes pitcher tendencies and sees the ball better than anyone in the state," said Shane Weaver, head coach of rival North Laurel High. "She can hit the ball out of the park to the opposite field on an outside pitch or pull it and hit it a ton."

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

Joiner joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Softball Players of the Year Emily Gaines (2009-10, South Laurel), Megan Taylor (2008-09, North Laurel) and Kirsten Allen (2007-08, Ryle), 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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