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**BARBE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Sara Corbello of Barbe High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year. Corbello is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Barbe 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 Corbello as Louisiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Corbello 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-6 junior right-handed pitcher posted a 26-3 record on the mound along with a 1.13 ERA this past season, leading the Bucs (26-3) to the Class 5A state semifinals. Corbello fired four no-hitters and one perfect game, striking out 177 batters in 160.2 innings pitched. At the plate, the two-time Louisiana Softball Coaches Association Class 5A All-State selection batted .395 with nine home runs, 27 runs scored and 34 RBI.

Corbello has maintained an unweighted 3.17 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research and as a youth softball and volleyball coach, and she has donated her time to the Salvation Army and a literacy-outreach program.

"Sara Corbello has her eyes on college and she's done diligent work to get herself ready to play college softball," said Chris Stropolo, Corbello's ASA coach with New Orleans Déjà vu. "She's a power kid. She's got a big swing and she can hit it anywhere. She can mash it."

Corbello has verbally committed to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette beginning in the fall of 2012.

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.

Corbello joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Softball Players of the Year, two-time winner Meghan Patterson (2008-09 & 2009-10, Mount Carmel Academy) and Kelee Grimes (2007-08, Pineville), 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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