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**Contact: Adam Woullard (312) 729-3627**

**SOUTH PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Alexis Bogdanovich of South Portland High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year. Bogdanovich is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Portland 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 Bogdanovich as Maine's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bogdanovich 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-8 senior right-handed pitcher has led the Red Riots to a 16-0 record and a berth in the Class A state quarterfinals, scheduled for June 9. At the time of her selection, Bogdanovich owned a 10-0 record in the circle along with a 0.10 ERA, recording 111 strikeouts in 69 innings pitched. The 2011 Southern Maine Activities Association Player of the Year, Bogdanovich batted .577 with two home runs, 23 RBIs and an .827 slugging percentage through 16 games.

Bogdanovich has maintained a 92.8 average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of America, at an area shelter providing meals for the needy and as a youth softball coach and clinician.

"Alexis Bogdanovich is the heart and soul of the undefeated defending state champions," said Rick Melanson, head coach of rival Noble High. "She is without question one of the most talented players in the state of Maine."

Bogdanovich has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at New Hampshire's St. Anselm College 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.

Bogdanovich joins recent Gatorade Maine Softball Players of the Year Sam Bedore (2009-10, Bangor) and two-time winner Hannah Hill (2007-08 & 2008-09, Fryeburg Academy), 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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