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**NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Kaitlyn Schmeiser of Northern High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maryland Softball Player of the Year. Schmeiser is the second Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Northern 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 Schmeiser as Maryland's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Schmeiser 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-10 senior right-handed pitcher led the Patriots (22-0) to their fourth straight Class 3A state championship this past season. Schmeiser posted an 18-0 record in the circle along with a 0.00 ERA, allowing two unearned runs in 111 innings pitched. The 2011 Northern High Female Athlete of the Year, she struck out 241 batters, walked 14 and allowed 16 hits this spring. She fired eight no-hitters, including four perfect games. At the plate, she batted .541 with three home runs, 31 runs scored and 47 RBI. In a 3-0 win over Howard in the 3A state title game, Schmeiser pitched a one-hitter with 15 strikeouts. It was her fourth straight year pitching a shutout in the state final.

Schmeiser has maintained an A average in the classroom. A winner of the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Humane Society, the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation and as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit cancer research.

"Kaitlyn Schmeiser's work ethic is what makes her so great," said Melissa Miller, Schmeiser's ASA coach with the Severna Park Hornets. "She is hands-down the hardest-working player I've ever coached. There are kids that fold under pressure and kids that rise, and she's one that rises."

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

Schmeiser joins recent Gatorade Maryland Softball Players of the Year Kourtney Salvarola (2009-10, Broadneck), Melanie Mitchell (2008-09, McDonough) and Lauren Gibson (2007-08, Chesapeake), 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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