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**AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Emma Mendoker of Amherst Regional High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year. Mendoker is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Amherst Regional 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 Mendoker as Massachusetts's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Mendoker 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 led the Hurricanes to a 21-1 record and a berth in the Division 1 sectional finals, scheduled for June 11. At the time of her selection, Mendoker owned a 21-1 record on the mound with a 0.19 ERA and 269 strikeouts in 145 innings. The two-time returning Pitcher of the Year as named by the Springfield Republican, she hurled 15 shutouts and two no-hitters. Mendoker batted .485 along with 23 RBI, 23 runs scored, seven doubles and three home runs through 22 games, producing a .750 slugging percentage and .583 on-base percentage. She finished 23-1 on the mound as a junior with a 0.21 ERA and 312 strikeouts in 165 innings, leading the Hurricanes to the 2010 Division 1 state semifinals. She also batted .459 during her junior campaign along with 24 runs scored, 17 RBI and five home runs.

Also an accomplished artist and flutist, Mendoker has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has donated her time as a youth softball instructor, on behalf of the National Honor Society and to benefit displaced civilians in Sudan's western region of Darfur.

"I've never met somebody who dedicated herself to the sport as much as she did," said Robyn King, head coach of the Polar Crush Gold. "She never gives up. To get to where she is today has been a tremendous accomplishment. And she's one of the nicest people I've ever met. Her teammates just love her."

Mendoker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at East Carolina University 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.

Mendoker joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Players of the Year Shannon Smith (2009-10, Milford) and two-time winner Nicole D'Argento (2007-08 & 2008-09, Ashland), 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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