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**HUDSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Sara Driesenga of Hudsonville High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year. Driesenga is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Hudsonville 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 Driesenga as Michigan's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Driesenga 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 6-foot-1 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman has led the Eagles to a 37-2 record and a berth in the Division 1, Region 2 semifinals against Rockford High, scheduled for June 11. At the time of her selection, Driesenga owned a 31-2 record in the circle along with a 0.60 ERA and 213 strikeouts in 197 innings pitched. She had fired six no-hitters, including three perfect games. At the plate, the 2008-09 and 2009-10 Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year was batting .471 with 11 doubles, nine home runs, 42 runs scored and 55 RBI. The 2010 ESPN RISE National Junior Softball Player of the Year, she is also a two-time Division 1 First Team All-State selection. Driesenga is one of only eight players nationally in the award's history to earn Gatorade State Softball Player of the Year honors three times.

Driesenga has maintained an unweighted 3.96 GPA in the classroom. The manager of Hudsonville High's school spirit store, she has volunteered locally as a youth softball instructor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Besides having an immense amount of talent, Sara Driesenga never acted like or treated anyone like they were beneath her," said Bill Conroy, Driesenga's coach with the Beverly Bandits. "Her stats speak for themselves. There are some good players in Michigan. It's hard to match Sara. She doesn't only do it with the arm, she swings a good bat, too."

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

Three-time winner Driesenga joins recent Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year Jenna Ignowski (2007-08, Niles), 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.

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