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**BURNSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MINNESOTA 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 Kelsey Anderson of Burnsville High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Minnesota Softball Player of the Year. Anderson is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Burnsville 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 Anderson as Minnesota's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Anderson 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-9 senior right-handed pitcher finished 19-3 on the mound with a 0.67 ERA and 212 strikeouts in 168.1 innings this past season, leading the Blaze (20-3) to the Class AAA sectional finals. The returning Player of the Year as named by the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, Anderson hurled 12 shutouts. A two-time Class AAA First Team All-State selection as named by the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches Association, she batted .400 along with 18 RBI, producing a .576 slugging percentage and .457 on-base percentage. Anderson finished 24-3 with a 0.39 ERA and 303 strikeouts in 181 innings as a junior, leading the Blaze to the Class AAA state championship.

Anderson has maintained a 3.18 GPA in the classroom. She has donated her time as a youth softball instructor for young athletes in the community who have demonstrated an interest in pitching.

"Kelsey distinguishes herself from her competition because of her work ethic and determination," said Burnsville High head coach Hillary Hansen. "She is very talented both offensively and defensively, and she leads her team by example."

Anderson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Winona State 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.

Anderson joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Softball Players of the Year, two-time winner Sara Moulton (2008-09 & 2009-10, Eagan) and Chelsey Durland (2007-08, Orono), 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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