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**TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MISSOURI 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 Paige Parker of Truman High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Missouri Softball Player of the Year. Parker is the second Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Truman 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 Parker as Missouri's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Parker 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 freshman left-handed pitcher posted a 24-5 record on the mound with a 0.55 ERA this past season, striking out 325 in 176.2 innings and leading the Patriots (27-6) to the Class 5A state final. Parker also batted .478 and broke school single-season records with four home runs and 35 RBI. She was a First Team All-State selection and the Kansas City Star All-Metro Player of the Year.

Parker has maintained a 4.14 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball clinics and camps.

"Parker's a dominant pitcher, and she hits the ball hard every time she's at the plate too," said Stuart Sullinger, head coach of rival Park Hill High. "The thing I like most about her is that she doesn't get rattled, ever."

Parker will begin her sophomore year of high school 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.

Parker joins recent Gatorade Missouri Softball Players of the Year Jessica Damico (2009-10, Pacific), Nicole Hudson (2008-09, Webb City) and Courtney Conley (2007-08, Eureka), 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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