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Contact: Adam Woullard (312) 729-3627

**BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Jaimee Paffhausen of Butte High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Montana Softball Player of the Year. Paffhausen is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Butte 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 Paffhausen as Montana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Paffhausen 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 Bulldogs (18-7) to the Class AA state championship this past season. Paffhausen posted a 17-5 record in the circle along with a 1.87 ERA and 123 strikeouts in 160.2 innings pitched. A Class AA All-State selection, Paffhausen also batted .397 with six home runs and 21 RBI this spring. She pitched 24 innings of softball—329 total pitches—on the final day of the state postseason tournament, including back-to-back shutouts of Billings West High, to earn Butte the title.

Paffhausen has maintained an unweighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom and graduated as Butte High's valedictorian. An Academic All-State selection in softball, basketball and volleyball, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, Big Brothers Big Sisters and as a peer tutor.

"Jaimee Paffhausen is a hard worker," said Chunky Thatcher, Paffhausen's ASA coach with the Mining City Magic. "She's very disciplined, very easy to coach. She's probably harder on herself than a coach would be hard on her. She was just driven with an ambition to compete, to prove something to herself, not just to win."

Paffhausen will attend the University of Montana 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.

Paffhausen joins recent Gatorade Montana Softball Players of the Year Jessyka MacDonald (2009-10, Billings West), DJ Johnson (2008-09, Hellgate) and Maghan Yurek (2007-08, CMR), 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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