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**PAPILLION-LA VISTA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Allie Mathewson of Papillion-La Vista South High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year. Mathewson is the third Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Papillion-La Vista South 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 Mathewson as Nebraska's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Mathewson 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-3 senior catcher batted .542 with six home runs, eight triples and 49 runs scored this past season, leading the Titans (29-5) to fifth place in the Class A state tournament. Captain of the Lincoln Journal-Star Super State Team, Mathewson also drove in 25 runs and stole 18 bases. She was a three-time member of both the Super State Team and the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska Team.

Mathewson has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and youth softball programs.

"Mathewson is one of the best I've ever seen," said Don Brummer, head coach of rival Millard West High. "She can run like a deer, she has power at the plate and her arm is incredible."

Mathewson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Creighton 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.

Mathewson joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Softball Players of the Year, two-time winner Becca Changstrom (2008-09 & 2009-10, Lincoln Southwest) and Ashley Hagemann (2007-08, Elkhorn), 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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