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**PIEDRA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW MEXICO 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 Karysta Donisthorpe of Piedra Vista High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Mexico Softball Player of the Year. Donisthorpe is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Piedra Vista 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 Donisthorpe as New Mexico's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Donisthorpe 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-7 senior right-handed pitcher led the Panthers (26-5) to their sixth consecutive state championship this past season. A returning ESPN RISE Third Team All-American, Donisthorpe finished 25-4 on the mound with a 0.66 ERA and 307 strikeouts against 49 walks in 170 innings, recording 18 shutouts and six no-hitters. Also a returning Louisville Slugger All-Region selection as named by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, she batted .387 along with 37 RBI, 33 runs scored and 12 doubles in 2011. Donisthorpe finished 26-2 on the mound as a junior with a 0.69 ERA and 346 strikeouts in 161.1 innings. She owns the state's single-game (19) strikeout record.

Donisthorpe has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom and ranks 17th in her graduating class. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, her church's youth group and as a youth sports instructor.

"Karysta is the most respected pitcher in the state of New Mexico," said Piedra Vista High Head Coach Kevin Werth. "She competes at the highest level. Every team we've played has made preparing for her a priority, and she still dominates in the circle. Karysta is probably the most humble individual with that kind of talent I've met. She respects every single hitter she faces, preparing for them through studying hitting charts and game-planning with her catcher and myself. She's a student first, and then the most dominant pitcher in the state of New Mexico second."

Donisthorpe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at New Mexico 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.

Two-time winner Donisthorpe joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Softball Player of the Year, fellow two-time winner Melissa Martinez (2007-08 & 2008-09, Cibola), 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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