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**LIVINGSTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Marissa Diescher of Livingston Manor High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year. Diescher is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Livingston Manor 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 Diescher as New York's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Diescher 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 has led the Wildcats (16-1) to a berth in the state Class D semifinals, scheduled for June 11. At the time of her selection, Diescher owned a 12-1 record on the mound with a 0.16 ERA and 220 strikeouts in 89 innings. She batted .557 with six home runs and 35 RBI through 17 games. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Diescher was the Class D co-Player of the Year in 2010.

Diescher has maintained an A average in the classroom. Also a basketball standout, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball and basketball programs.

"Diescher is absolutely outstanding," said Mike Becker, head coach of rival Chester Academy. "She throws hard and doesn't put anything over the center of the plate. She's a very, very good hitter too."

Diescher has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Penn 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.

Diescher joins recent Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Tammy Wray (2009-10, Somers), Olivia Galati (2008-09, St. John the Baptist) and Cassie Reilly-Boccia (2007-08, Yorktown), 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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