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**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Alyssa McCoart of Lincoln High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Rhode Island Softball Player of the Year. McCoart is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 McCoart as Rhode Island's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, McCoart 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 and first baseman has led the Lions to an 18-3 record and a berth in the elimination bracket semifinals against TEAM, scheduled for June 9. Entering the June 8 Division 1 elimination-bracket semifinals against Cumberland High, the 5-foot-8 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman owned a 12-2 record in the circle for the Lions (18-3). At the time of her selection, McCoart boasted a 1.04 ERA and 109 strikeouts in 101 innings pitched. At the plate, the two-time First Team Division 1 All-State selection was batting .500 with two home runs, seven doubles, 13 runs scored and 23 RBI.

McCoart has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of the Executive Board of Lincoln High's Future Business Leaders of America chapter, she has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and as a teacher's aide at an elementary school.

"Alyssa McCoart is a complete ballplayer," said Dennis Kennedy, head coach of rival Bay View Academy. "She can hurt you on the mound, at the plate, even defensively—she's like having a fifth infielder on the diamond."

McCoart has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Central Connecticut 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.

McCoart joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Softball Players of the Year Elise Fortier (2009-10, Coventry), Fallon Scorpio (2008-09, St. Mary Academy-Bay View) and Steph Morse (2007-08, Warwick Veterans), 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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