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**J.L. MANN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Leslie Jury of J.L. Mann Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year. Jury is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from J.L. Mann Academy.

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 Jury as South Carolina's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Jury 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 6-foot senior right-handed pitcher led the Patriots (28-5) to the Class 4A state championship this past season. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Player of the Year, Jury posted a 25-2 record on the mound with a 0.38 ERA and 233 strikeouts in 163.2 innings. A five-time All-State selection, she also batted .526 with four home runs and 43 RBI. Jury has been named South Carolina's Miss Softball each of the past two seasons. Jury is one of only eight players nationally in the award's history to earn Gatorade State Softball Player of the Year honors three times.

Jury has maintained a weighted 4.11 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball programs and toy-donation drives for needy children.

"Jury throws very hard and she's got the changeup, rise ball, screwball—she has it all," said Sandy Martin, head coach of rival Boiling Springs High. "She's got very good command, and she hits the ball pretty well too. She's the total package."

Jury has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

Three-time winner Jury joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year Stephanie Saylor (2007-08, Wren), 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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