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**GRACE BAPTIST ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Lacye Walker of Grace Baptist Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year. Walker is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Grace Baptist 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 Walker as Tennessee's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Walker 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-6 senior left-handed pitcher finished 31-5 on the mound with a 0.66 ERA and 326 strikeouts in 203 innings this past season, leading the Eagles (41-9-1) to the Class A state championship game. A two-time returning Class A First Team All-State selection as named by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association, Walker hurled 15 shutouts and two no-hitters in 2011. She also batted .486 along with 67 RBI, 48 runs scored, 19 home runs, 13 doubles and eight triples. A four-time Best of Preps honoree as named by The Chattanooga Times Free Press, Walker compiled a 1.109 slugging percentage and .567 on-base percentage this spring. She finished 28-5 on the mound as a junior with a 0.90 ERA and 291 strikeouts in addition to batting .514 along with 43 RBI and 10 home runs.

Walker has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of her church's youth group and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"She is the most feared hitter in Tennessee," said Pat Moyer, director of the Chattanooga Fury. "No player I have seen comes through more in the clutch and is more feared than Walker. She is almost always pitched around, and yet she still seems to find a way to knock in runs or hit a dramatic walk-off home run to win the game. Her offensive numbers alone would be enough to make her a leading candidate for Player of the Year, but offense is just the beginning for Lacye."

Walker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Chattanooga State Community College 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.

Walker joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Softball Players of the Year Ellen Renfroe (2009-10, Trinity Christian Academy), Kelsey Cartwright (2008-09, Goodpasture Christian School) and Holly Thomas (2007-08, Ooltewah), 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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