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**LEE-DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VIRGINIA 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 Kelly Heinz of Lee-Davis High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Virginia Softball Player of the Year. Heinz is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lee-Davis 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 Heinz as Virginia's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Heinz 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-4 junior right-handed pitcher has led the Confederates to a 24-1 record and a berth in the Group AAA state semifinals against Grassfield High, scheduled for June 10. At the time of her selection, Heinz owned a 20-1 record in the circle along with a 0.05 ERA and 263 strikeouts in 137 innings pitched. The 2010 *Richmond Times-Dispatch* All-Metro Pitcher of the Year had recorded five no-hitters, including two perfect games. At the plate, Heinz was batting .443 with three home runs, five triples and 24 RBI. In the recently concluded Central Region Tournament, she pitched a 1-hitter, a no-hitter and a perfect game to lead Lee-Davis to the title.

Heinz has maintained a weighted 4.55 GPA in the classroom. The 2009 Hanover County Citizenship Award winner, she has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and as a peer math tutor.

"Kelly Heinz is one of the best softball players I've ever seen," said Chris Pace, head coach of rival Hanover High. "As long as they have her, we have no shot at winning the district. She can throw it into a shoebox at 60 mph from 43 feet. That's a special talent. She's a tremendous pitcher and she's a good hitter, too."

Heinz has made a verbal commitment to play softball on scholarship at Virginia Tech beginning in the fall of 2012.

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.

Heinz joins recent Gatorade Virginia Softball Players of the Year Chelsey Dunham (2009-10, South County Secondary School), Caroline Williams (2008-09, Loudoun Valley) and Caitlyn Delahaba (2007-08, Broad Run), 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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