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**KAUKAUNA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WISCONSIN 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 Lauren Danner of Kaukauna High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Player of the Year. Danner is the third Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kaukauna 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 Danner as Wisconsin's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Danner 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 led the Galloping Ghosts to a 24-0 record and a berth in the Division 1 sectional finals, scheduled for June 10. At the time of her selection, Danner owned a 20-0 record on the mound with a 0.88 ERA and 162 strikeouts against just 20 walks in 126.1 innings. The returning Player of the Year as named by the Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association and Appleton Post Crescent, she hurled nine shutouts. Danner batted .440 along with 25 RBI and 13 doubles through 24 games, producing a .653 slugging percentage and .475 on-base percentage. She finished 26-1 on the mound as a junior with a 0.58 ERA, leading the Galloping Ghosts to the 2010 Division 1 state championship. Danner also batted .309 during her junior campaign with 24 RBI and 14 runs scored. She led her Amateur Athletic Association 16U team to the Wisconsin state championship this past summer.

Danner has maintained a 3.48 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time locally with the elderly and as a youth softball instructor, she has volunteered on behalf of the Salvation Army.

"Lauren is an outstanding pitcher, student and role model for every young lady," said Kaukauna High head coach Tim Roehrig. "She has been a very dominant pitcher her whole life, and she has accomplished this through hard work, dedication and a desire to be the best. Lauren is also one of the most humble athletes you would ever meet. Her accolades on the field have never changed the person she is. After winning a state championship last season without allowing a run the entire postseason, Lauren went back to work and was dedicated to making herself better."

Danner has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay 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.

Danner joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Softball Players of the Year McKinzie Freimuth (2009-10, Kaukauna), Claudia Harke (2008-09, Kimberly) and Alyssa Roberts (2007-08, Bradford), 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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