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**NORCO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Emily Lockman of Norco High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade California Softball Player of the Year. Lockman is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Norco 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 Lockman as California's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Lockman 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 senior pitcher led the Cougars (31-2) to the Southern Section Division I championship this past season. Lockman posted a 31-2 record with a 0.35 ERA and 145 strikeouts in 220 innings pitched. She allowed 111 hits and 11 walks. At the plate, Lockman, a two-time First Team All-Big VIII League selection, batted .389 with four home runs, nine doubles and 33 RBI. In five postseason games, she pitched 35 innings, allowing one earned run on 16 hits with 19 strikeouts and one walk.

Lockman has maintained a 3.95 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a retirement home and as a youth softball coach.

"Emily Lockman is a very dominant pitcher," said Bryan Stephens, head coach of rival Centennial High. "She believes every time she takes the mound she is going to win. Her stuff is by far some of the best I have ever seen; very difficult to hit with lots of speed and movement."

Lockman has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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 ESPNHS 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.

Lockman joins recent Gatorade California Softball Players of the Year Cheyenne Cordes (2010-11, Rodriguez High School), Jessica Hall (2009-10, Ayala), Keilani Ricketts (2008-09, Archbishop Mitty) and Jessica Spigner (2007-08, Valencia) 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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