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**LEGACY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Rainey Gaffin of Legacy High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year. Gaffin is the second Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Legacy 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 Gaffin as Colorado's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Gaffin 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-10 senior right-handed pitcher led the Lightning (24-2) to their fifth consecutive Class 5A state championship this past season. Gaffin posted a 22-2 record with a 1.74 ERA in the circle, while batting .591 with 15 home runs and 48 RBI. She was MVP of the Class 5A state tournament, a First Team All-State selection and the Denver Post All-Colorado Player of the Year.

Gaffin has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. She has helped created a reading program for local elementary school students and has volunteered delivering food to area needy.

"Gaffin is a very talented young lady with an obvious passion for the game," said Jamie Dunn, head coach at Fruita Monument High. "She's a dominating force on the mound and in the batter's box."

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

Two-time winner Gaffin joins recent Gatorade Colorado Softball Players of the Year Shelby Babcock (2008-09 & 2009-10, Legacy), and Mallory Duran (2007-08, Windsor) 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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