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**CHAMBERLAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Bianka Bell of Chamberlain High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year. Bell is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Chamberlain 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 Bell as Florida's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Bell 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 shortstop led the Chiefs (27-5) to the Class 7A state championship this past season. Bell batted .731 with 11 home runs, 52 runs scored, 35 RBI and a 1.366 slugging percentage. The Tampa Tribune and Tampa Bay Times Player of the Year, she batted .727 in the postseason with four home runs, 19 runs scored and 12 RBI in seven games—all while playing with her right eye swollen shut after an on-field collision late in the regular season.

Bell has maintained a 4.35 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the Chamberlain High Art Club and her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she helped organize a softball camp with the proceeds benefitting the family of a child with leukemia.

"Hands down, Bianka Bell is the best hitter I've ever seen at the high school level," said Doug Powell, head coach of rival Braden River High. "She's also a very solid defensive player as well. She carried her team to a great season."

Bell has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at LSU 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.

Bell joins recent Gatorade Florida Softball Players of the Year Sami Fagan (2010-11, Dunnellon High School), Kasey Fagan (2008-09 & 2009-10, Dunnellon), and Jaclyn Traina (2007-08, Naples) 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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