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**LAKE CITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Casey Stangel of Lake City High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year. Stangel is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake City 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 Stangel as Idaho's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Stangel 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 state's returning Gatorade Softball Player of the Year, Stangel posted a 22-2 record in 132.1 innings this past season with a 0.37 ERA and 218 strikeouts, leading the Timberwolves (22-2) to the Class 5A state championship game. The 5-foot-10 junior left-handed pitcher also batted .558 with 11 home runs and 59 RBI, producing a 1.117 slugging percentage and .606 on-base percentage. The three-time Inland Empire League MVP, she finished 25-0 with a 0.33 ERA and 283 strikeouts in 149 innings pitched as a sophomore, leading Lake City to the 2011 Class 5A state title.

Stangel has maintained a 3.75 weighted GPA in the classroom and serves on her school's student council. In addition to participating as a student-athlete blogger for ESPNHS this past season, she has volunteered as a youth softball instructor, on behalf of her church and in association with the National Honor Society.

"Her velocity separates her, and she's really good at hitting her spots," said Larry Bieber, head coach at rival Coeur d'Alene High. "She really has command of the strike zone. With her velocity, when she's on the edges, she's in business, and when she does that she's almost unhittable. Offensively, we had to pitch around her a lot. You don't ever want to get behind her, but you don't want to give her a first-pitch strike, either. She's very good offensively."

Stangel will begin her senior year of high school this fall and has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of Missouri beginning in the fall of 2013.

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 Stangel joins recent Gatorade Idaho Softball Players of the Year Nickayla Skinner (2008-09 & 2009-10, Mountain Home), and Joni Cook (2007-08, Eagle) 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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