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Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**GLENBARD NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Lilly Fecho of Glenbard North High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Illinois Softball Player of the Year. Fecho is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Glenbard North 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 Fecho as Illinois' best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fecho 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 6-foot senior left-handed pitcher led the Panthers to a 34-3 record and the Class 4A sectional finals this past season. A two-time unanimous All-Conference and All-Area selection, Fecho posted a 27-3 record in the circle with a 0.88 ERA and 254 strikeouts against 54 walks in 192 innings-pitched. Fecho batted .393 with eight home runs and 33 RBI, scoring 28 runs while producing a .696 slugging percentage and .424 on-base percentage in 2012.

Fecho has maintained a 5.40 weighted GPA (on a 5.0 scale) in the classroom. A member of the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society and Spanish Honor Society, she has volunteered on behalf of SADD, her church community and as a youth softball instructor.

"Lilly Fecho didn't disappoint one bit," said Jerry Kedziora, head coach at rival Naperville North High. "She has dominated the game this season in Class 4A competition, not only with pitching, but hitting as well. To beat Glenbard North, you had to first try to put the ball in play against Fecho, and then keep her from driving in runs."

Fecho has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Purdue University 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.

Fecho joins recent Gatorade Illinois Softball Players of the Year Brianna LeBeau (2010-11, Richards High School), Kirsten Verdun (2009-10, Coal City), Emily Norton (2008-09, Oak Forest) and Stephanie Kirkpatrick (2007-08, Plainfield Central) 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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