

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**SOUTH PUTNAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Brooke Boetjer of South Putnam High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year. Boetjer is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from South Putnam 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 Boetjer as Indiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Boetjer 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 right-handed pitcher led the Eagles to a 30-0 record and a 53-game winning streak over two seasons entering the Class 2A state championship game against Adams Central, scheduled for June 9. Boetjer owned a 21-0 record and a 0.11 ERA in the circle, and a .542 batting average with 40 RBI at the plate through 30 games. A First Team All-State selection and a Miss Softball finalist, she had 159 strikeouts against just 15 walks in 129 innings-pitched.

Boetjer has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. A member of the 4-H Club, she has volunteered locally as an elementary school tutor and youth softball instructor.

"Boetjer is the best pitcher in Indiana softball this year, and may very well have been last year as well," said Derek Doehrmann, head coach at Speedway High. "She has tremendous control, velocity and pitching smarts."

Boetjer has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Indiana 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.

Boetjer joins recent Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Kelsi Jones (2010-11, Carmel High School), Morgan Lewis (2009-10, Lutheran), Mel Dumezich (2008-09, Whiting) and Katie Hackney (2007-08, Huntington North) 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.

###