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**EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Riley Fisher of East High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year. Fisher is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from East 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 Fisher as Iowa's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Fisher 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 Scarlets (39-5) to the Class 4A state championship last season. Fisher posted a 23-3 record with a 1.10 ERA in the circle, while batting .325 with 13 home runs and 48 RBI. The 2011 Class 4A Pitcher of the Year, she is a two-time First Team All-State selection and was named to the All-State Tournament team.

Fisher has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Kiwanis Miracle League, assisting physically and intellectually challenged youth athletes, and has participated in the Scarlet Santa Program, providing gifts for needy children.

"Fisher has worked hard and become a game-changer for East," said Kim Wright-Jones, head coach at Urbandale High. "She is definitely an amazing pitcher."

Fisher has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Iowa State 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.

Fisher joins recent Gatorade Iowa Softball Players of the Year Jadyn Spencer (2010-11, West High School), Jamie Fisher (2009-10, BCLUW), and Sammy Snygg (2007-08 & 2008-09, North Polk) 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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