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**CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF LOUISVILLE STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Allison Foster of Christian Academy of Louisville as its 2011-12 Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year. Foster is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Christian Academy of Louisville.

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 Foster as Kentucky's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Foster 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 pitcher and outfielder batted .500 with 10 home runs, 39 runs scored and 31 RBI this past season, leading the Centurions (28-8) to the 7th Region quarterfinals. Foster produced 31 extra-base hits and a slugging percentage of 1.106. In the circle, the three-time First Team All-7th Region selection posted a 24-6 record with a 0.80 ERA and 302 strikeouts in 176 innings-pitched. She concluded her prep softball career with a state-record 46 triples.

Foster has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at Maryhurst, a home for neglected and abused teenage girls, and as part of a fundraising campaign to help build an orphanage in India.

"Allison Foster is a lot more than a pitcher, she is the total package of a ballplayer," said Bob Wheatley, head coach of rival Sacred Heart Academy. "She is very athletic and can play other positions very well."

Foster has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Bellarmine 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.

Foster joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Softball Players of the Year Griffin Joiner (2010-11, Christian County High School), Emily Gaines (2009-10, South Laurel), Megan Taylor (2008-09, North Laurel) and Kirsten Allen (2007-08, Ryle) 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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