

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**SAM HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Baylee Corbello of Sam Houston High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year. Corbello is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sam Houston 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 Corbello as Louisiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Corbello 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-5 junior pitcher led the Broncos (23-4) to the Class 5A state championship this past season, a year after leading Sam Houston to the Class 4A state title. Corbello posted a 23-4 record with a 0.86 ERA and 327 strikeouts in 179 innings-pitched. She recorded 16 shutouts, including three no-hitters. At the plate, Corbello batted .484 with five home runs, 17 doubles, 36 RBI and a .905 slugging percentage. She hit a home run and struck out 14 batters in the Broncos nine-inning, 2-1 win over Hahnville High in the state title game.

Corbello has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and on behalf of Buddy Ball, a program that organizes T-ball games for physically and intellectually challenged children. She has also donated her time at an area women's shelter.

"Baylee Corbello pitched 18 innings straight to win the state title, including pitching against the best hitting lineup in the state," said Amy Pitre, head coach of rival East Ascension High. "And she hit a solo homer in the state final to help herself win it. She was amazing."

Corbello will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Two-time winner Corbello joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Softball Players of the Year Sara Meghan Patterson (2008-09 & 2009-10, Mount Carmel Academy), and Kelee Grimes (2007-08, Pineville) 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).

###