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**THORNTON ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Julia Geaumont of Thornton Academy as its 2011-12 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year. Geaumont is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Thornton Academy.

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 Geaumont as Maine's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Geaumont 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 right-handed pitcher led the Trojans to a 14-2 record entering the Class A state quarterfinals, scheduled for June 7. Geaumont posted a 14-2 record in the circle along with a 0.84 ERA and 136 strikeouts in 96 innings-pitched. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she is batting .679 with 10 home runs and a 1.509 slugging percentage through 16 games.

Geaumont has maintained a 4.09 GPA in the classroom. The vice president of her school's chapter of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as a student tutor, a youth softball coach and on behalf of fundraiser walks to benefit cancer research.

"Student athletes like Julia Geaumont are the reason we go into the coaching profession," said Thornton Academy head coach John Provost. "After just two years in our program, she was voted team captain because of her ability to lead, her dedication to the program and her outstanding contributions during game play and at practice."

Geaumont has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Bowdoin College 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.

Geaumont joins recent Gatorade Maine Softball Players of the Year Alexis Bogdanovich (2010-11, South Portland High School), Sam Bedore (2009-10, Bangor), and Hannah Hill (2007-08 & 2008-09, Fryeburg Academy) 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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