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**SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Heidi Riley of Skyview High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Montana Softball Player of the Year. Riley is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyview 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 Riley as Montana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Riley 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-2 senior shortstop batted .449 with four home runs and 26 RBI this past season, leading the Falcons (18-6) to the Class AA state tournament consolation bracket semifinals. A 2012 Class AA First Team selection, Riley banged out 11 doubles, five triples, scored 26 runs and compiled a slugging percentage of .820. A two-time Class B All-State pick as a freshman and sophomore at Shepherd High, she concluded her prep softball career with a state-record 45 doubles.

Riley has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of community-beautification projects, as a youth softball coach and she has provided meals to needy families at Thanksgiving.

"Heidi Riley was a dangerous player both at the plate and at the tough shortstop position," said Steve Sosich, head coach of rival Butte High. "She had great range with an exceptional and accurate arm."

Riley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Ashford University in Iowa 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.

Riley joins recent Gatorade Montana Softball Players of the Year Jaimee Paffhausen (2010-11, Butte High School), Jessyka MacDonald (2009-10, Billings West), DJ Johnson (2008-09, Hellgate) and Maghan Yurek (2007-08, CMR) 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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