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**ALVIRNE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Taylor Carbone of Alvirne High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year. Carbone is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Alvirne 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 Carbone as New Hampshire's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Carbone 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 and first baseman led the Broncos (16-4) to the Division I semifinals, scheduled for June 5. Carbone posted a 13-2 record in the circle along with a 1.02 ERA and 131 strikeouts in 96 innings-pitched through 20 games. Also the 2010-11 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year, Carbone owned a .581 batting average with three home runs, 28 RBI and a .951 slugging percentage entering the state final four.

Carbone has maintained a 3.35 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation and has donated her time collecting baseball equipment for needy youth players in Nicaragua.

"Taylor Carbone is one of the most complete players that we have faced," said Jimmy Clavette, head coach at Timberlane High. "She is a consistent hitter, a solid pitcher and plays multiple positions very well."

Carbone has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst 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.

A two-time winner, Carbone joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Players of the Year Kelsey Martel (2009-10, Concord), Paige Hansen (2008-09, Concord) and Amanda Barton (2007-08, Franklin) 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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