

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**KINGSWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW JERSEY 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 Kelsey Dominik of Kingsway Regional High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Jersey Softball Player of the Year. Dominik is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Kingsway Regional 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 Dominik as New Jersey's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Dominik 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 led the Dragons to a 26-3 record entering the Group III state semifinals, scheduled for June 5. A two-time returning All-State selection, Dominik owned a 24-3 record with a 0.67 ERA and 268 strikeouts against 36 walks in 188 innings-pitched through 29 games. Also an infielder, Dominik batted .487 with 11 home runs, 43 RBI and 43 runs scored, producing a 1.079 slugging percentage and .639 on-base percentage entering the state final four.

Dominik has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom and serves on her school's student council. A member of the National Honor Society, National Arts Honor Society, SADD and Kingsway's concert band, she has volunteered on behalf of Operation Head Start, Rotary International's Interact service club and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation.

"She is a tremendous competitor, team leader, and demonstrates excellent sportsmanship," said Alan Homan, head coach at rival Cumberland High. "Her stats are amazing as a hitter and pitcher. She hit a walk off home run to beat us in 11 innings while striking out 15 the first time we played. In the second game, she hit a three-run homer to tie the game and change its complexion. In the third game, we walked her every time up. Her reaction was to encourage her teammates and stay positive."

Dominik has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Temple 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.

Dominik joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Softball Players of the Year Emily Bausher (2010-11, New Egypt High School), Lauren Gaskill (2009-10, Rancocas Valley Regional), and Brittany O'Donnell (2007-08 & 2008-09, Red Bank Catholic) 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.

###