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**MACARTHUR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Kristen Brown of MacArthur High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from MacArthur 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 Brown as New York's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Brown 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-9 senior shortstop/right-handed pitcher led the Generals to a 20-4 record entering the Class AA Long Island Championship Game against East Islip, scheduled for June 5. Brown owned a .564 batting average with 14 home runs and 42 RBI at the plate, and an 8-3 record with a 2.27 ERA in the circle through 24 games. She's a two-time First Team All-Long Island selection and was a Second Team All-State honoree as a junior.

Brown has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. Also a volleyball standout, she has raised funds for breast cancer research and volunteered locally collecting Christmas gifts for needy children.

"Brown is the kind of kid you don't worry about getting a hit every time, you worry about her getting a home run every time," said Mike Muscara, head coach at rival Mepham High. "She's very good as a pitcher and she's a tremendous shortstop. I've been coaching 30 years and she's one of the top five players I've ever seen."

Brown has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Marissa Diescher (2010-11, Livingston Manor High School), Tammy Wray (2009-10, Somers), Olivia Galati (2008-09, St. John the Baptist) and Cassie Reilly-Boccia (2007-08, Yorktown) 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).

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