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**WEST FARGO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NORTH DAKOTA 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 Sydney Greenlund of West Fargo High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year. Greenlund is the second Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Fargo 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 Greenlund as North Dakota's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Greenlund 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-5 senior catcher and third baseman led the Packers (33-2) to their 15th straight Class A state championship this past season. Greenlund batted .465 with three home runs, 49 runs scored, 41 RBI and a .711 slugging percentage. She is a two-time First Team All-Eastern Dakota Conference selection.

Greenlund has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. The winner of West Fargo High's Outstanding Commitment and Leadership Award, she has volunteered locally as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army, as a youth softball coach and on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters Fargo.

"Sydney Greenlund had to handle a young pitching staff this year," said West Fargo head coach Pat Johnson. "Someone needed to lead the staff. Sydney is also the anchor of our offense. She approaches the game not only with her ability but also her mind."

Greenlund has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Jamestown 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.

Greenlund joins recent two-time Gatorade North Dakota Softball Player of the Year Kacie Johnson (2009-10 & 2010-11, West Fargo High School) as the second player to ever receive the prestigious award in her state.

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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