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**KEYSTONE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OHIO 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 Kenzie Conrad of Keystone High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Ohio Softball Player of the Year. Conrad is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Keystone 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 Conrad as Ohio's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Conrad 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-11 senior right-handed pitcher led the Wildcats (32-0) to the Division II state championship this past season. Conrad posted a 25-0 record in the circle along with a 0.74 ERA and 178 strikeouts in 142 innings-pitched. The 2011 Cleveland Plain Dealer Softball Player of the Year, Conrad also batted .485 with 11 home runs, 44 RBI and a 1.031 slugging percentage.

Conrad has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, the Varsity Club and her school's Pep Club, she is a devoted parishioner in her church community and has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach.

"Kenzie Conrad is an outstanding pitcher with an incredible work ethic and a constant commitment to get better," said Roger Wright, head coach at Vermilion High. "For a kid her age, she really understands the game beyond her years."

Conrad has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Akron 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.

Conrad joins recent two-time Gatorade Ohio Softball Players of the Year Erin Gabriel (2009-10 & 2010-11, Poland Seminary High School), and Tess Sito (2007-08 & 2008-09, Elyria) 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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