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**NORTH MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OREGON 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 Maryssa Becker of North Medford High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year. Becker is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Medford 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 Becker as Oregon's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Becker 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 6-foot junior pitcher led the Black Tornado (29-1) to the Class 6A state championship this past season. Becker posted a 26-0 record with a 0.43 ERA and 313 strikeouts in 178 innings-pitched, firing three no-hitters. A two-time Southern Oregon Hybrid League Pitcher of the Year, she batted .475 with seven home runs, 15 doubles, 47 RBI and a .832 slugging percentage.

Becker has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Junior Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as an elementary school mentor and as a youth softball instructor.

"Maryssa Becker has had a great season. She is a true competitor who has dominated again and again," said Miranda Gillaspie-Smith, head coach of rival South Medford High. "Not only does she compete on the mound, but she beyond holds her own at the plate. Not very often do you see a player with that type of power on both sides of the game."

Becker has made a verbal commitment to attend the University of Louisville on an athletic scholarship beginning in the fall of 2013.

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.

Becker joins recent Gatorade Oregon Softball Players of the Year Alyssa Gillespie (2010-11, Glencoe High School), Kaitlin Inglesby (2009-10, Central Catholic), Anna Bertrand (2008-09, McMinnville) and Paige Hall (2007-08, Jesuit) 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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