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Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® RHODE ISLAND 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 Lindsay Mayer of Lincoln High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Rhode Island Softball Player of the Year. Mayer is the second Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln 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 Mayer as Rhode Island's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Mayer 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-4 junior pitcher and shortstop led the Lions to a 19-0 record and a berth in the Division I winner's bracket semifinals, scheduled for June 4. At the time of her selection, Mayer owned a 16-0 record and a 0.67 ERA with 163 strikeouts in 104 innings-pitched. At the plate, the 2011 First Team All-State honoree hit .467 with three home runs, 23 runs scored, 24 RBI, a .657 on-base percentage and a .911 slugging percentage through 19 games.

Mayer has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished piano player, she has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach and mentor.

"Lindsay Mayer is the best all-around player in the state," said Chris Luppe, head coach of rival Westerly High. "She is as close to a dominant pitcher as there is in the state. She is also a very good defensive shortstop as well as an excellent hitter."

Mayer has made a verbal commitment to attend the University of Virginia 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.

Mayer joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Softball Players of the Year Alyssa McCoart (2010-11, Lincoln High School), Elise Fortier (2009-10, Coventry), Fallon Scorpio (2008-09, St. Mary Academy-Bay View) and Steph Morse (2007-08, Warwick Veterans) 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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