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**D.W.DANIEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Carley Hoover of D.W.Daniel High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year. Hoover is the first Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from D.W.Daniel 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 Hoover as South Carolina's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Hoover 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-2 junior right-handed pitcher posted a 16-4 record in 138.2 innings this past season, compiling a 0.50 ERA, 296 strikeouts and leading the Lions (25-7) to the Class 3A finals. An All-State selection and the High School Sports Report Class 3A co-Player of the Year, Hoover also batted .475 with seven home runs and 34 runs scored. She walked a state-record 59 times.

Hoover has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. President-elect of her class, she has volunteered locally delivering food to the needy and coaching youth softball players.

"She's one of the best pitchers I've seen play the game," said Bobby Sowell, head coach at Hartsville High. "Her velocity is at the top of the scale for a softball player, regardless of age. Her pitches have very good movement and she seems to always pitch ahead in the count."

Hoover has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at Stanford University 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.

Hoover joins recent three-time Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year Leslie Jury (2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11, J.L. Mann Academy), and Stephanie Saylor (2007-08, Wren) 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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