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**SODDY-DAISY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Kelsey Nunley of Soddy-Daisy High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year. Nunley is the second Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Soddy-Daisy 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 Nunley as Tennessee's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Nunley 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-10 senior right-handed pitcher led the Trojans (46-5) to their second Class AAA state championship in three years this past season. The two-time All-City Player of the Year as named by Chattanooga's Times Free Press, Nunley posted a 36-4 record with two saves, a 0.45 ERA and 401 strikeouts against just 21 walks in 246 innings-pitched, recording 26 shutouts and 11 no-hitters. In five Class AAA state tournament games, she finished 4-1 in the circle with a 0.60 ERA and 61 strikeouts, issuing only three walks in 35 innings.

Also a basketball and volleyball standout, Nunley has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and National Honor Society, she has also donated her time as a youth softball instructor.

"She's the best pitcher in the state," said Norma Nelson, head coach at rival Ooltewah High. "Nunley is the real deal. She's a good kid. She throws very hard, and she also has a curveball and a screwball. This year, she developed a change that's just unbelievable. She throws hard, and she also has movement on it."

Nunley has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Nunley joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Softball Players of the Year Lacye Walker (2010-11, Grace Baptist Academy), Ellen Renfroe (2009-10, Trinity Christian Academy), Kelsey Cartwright (2008-09, Goodpasture Christian School) and Holly Thomas (2007-08, Ooltewah) 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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