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**ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® VERMONT 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 Alexis Perry of Essex High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Vermont Softball Player of the Year. Perry is the fourth Gatorade Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Essex 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 Perry as Vermont's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Perry 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-8 senior right-handed pitcher led the Hornets to a 17-0 record entering the Division I semifinals against Missisquoi, scheduled for June 6. Perry owned a 14-0 record and a 0.43 ERA in the circle, and a .511 batting average with 21 RBI at the plate through 17 games. A two-time First Team All-Metro selection, she recorded 173 strikeouts against just 15 walks in 98 innings pitched.

Perry has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball programs.

"Perry has just been lights out," said Leslie Dunn, head coach at North Country High. "She's using different pitches, hitting her spots more often and her pitches are moving more. I feel like she's even more dominant than she was in the past."

Perry has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Merrimack College 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.

Two-time winner Perry joins recent Gatorade Vermont Softball Players of the Year Chelsea Abbott (2010-11, Bellows Free Academy), and Stephanie Frank (2007-08 & 2008-09, Essex) 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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