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**REDLANDS EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 14, 2010) — In its third decade of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Krista Vansant of Redlands East Valley High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year. Vansant is the first Gatorade California Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Redlands East Valley 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 court, distinguishes Vansant as California's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Vansant joins an elite alumni association of past state volleyball award winners, including USA Volleyball Olympians Kim Glass (2001-02, Horseshoe HS, Penn.), Kim Willoughby (1998-99, 1999-00, Assumption HS, La.) and Ogonna Nnamani (1999-00, University HS, Ill).

The 6-foot-2 senior outside hitter recorded 589 kills, 299 digs, 33 blocks and 26 service aces this past season while posting a kill percentage of .557, leading the Wildcats (30-6) to the California Interscholastic Federation State Division I regional semifinals. An Under Armour All-American and the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section Division 1A Player of the Year, Vansant amassed 180 kills, 78 digs, nine blocks and seven service aces in seven postseason matches this fall. The nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2011 as rated by PrepVolleyball.com, she produced 565 kills, 233 digs, 72 service aces, 36 assists and 30 blocks as a junior, leading the Wildcats (37-4) to the Division II state title game. A 2010 USA Junior Nationals 18-Open All-Tournament Team and 2008 U.S. Girls Youth National Training Team selection, Vansant captured 2008 PrepVolleyball.com National Sophomore of the Year honors.

Vansant has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. The Redlands East Valley 2010 Homecoming Queen and a member of her school's chapter of Rachel's Challenge, a national student-empowerment initiative, Vansant has volunteered locally as a coach at youth volleyball clinics in addition to participating in a literacy-outreach program in her area. She has also donated her time to Associated Student Body initiatives at her school.

"No player in California drew more focus than Vansant did, yet she was able to consistently defeat double and triple blocks to help her team win," said PrepVolleyball.com Publisher John Tawa. "Facing a talent deficit against most other elite Southern California teams, Redlands East Valley rode Vansant's big right arm and unyielding desire to the CIF Southern Section 1A finals, then pulled off the upset of the playoffs by upending then-national-top-10 La Costa Canyon on the road in the Southern California regionals."

Vansant has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Washington beginning in the fall of 2011.

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 ESPN RISE 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.

Vansant joins recent Gatorade California Volleyball Players of the Year Rachel Williams (2009-10, Archbishop Mitty), Lauren Corp (2008-09, Orange Lutheran) and Tarah Murrey (2007-08, Saint Mary's) 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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