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**SILOAM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARKANSAS 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 Lizzy Briones of Siloam Springs High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Briones is the third Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Siloam Springs 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 Briones as Arkansas' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Briones 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 5-foot-11 senior middle hitter recorded 498 kills, 234 digs, 170 blocks and 45 service aces this past season while posting a kill percentage of .510, leading the Panthers (19-5-1) to the Class 5A state final. A four-time First Team All-State selection, Briones played on three Class 5A state championship teams as a four-year starter for Siloam Springs.

Briones has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered as a volleyball camp counselor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Lizzy Briones's passion for the game, her work ethic and her commitment to volleyball speaks volumes about her abilities and her character," said Siloam Springs head coach Rose Cheek. "Her enthusiasm was contagious for the other kids on our team and she was the fuel to our fire. She is the kind of athlete who doesn't come along very often."

Briones has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at James Madison University 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.

Briones joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Allison (2009-10 & 2008-09, Siloam Springs) and Cayla Fielder (2007-08, Westside) 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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