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**CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Nicole Dalton of Chaparral High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year. Dalton is the second Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Chaparral 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 Dalton as Colorado's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Dalton 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 junior outside hitter led the Wolverines to a 32-1 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. Dalton recorded 28 kills, 17 digs, four blocks and three service aces in the 3-0 Class 5A state championship victory against Pine Creek, capturing All-Tournament Most Valuable Player honors. A 2009 Amateur Athletic Union Girls' Junior National Volleyball Championships All-American and USA Volleyball Junior Olympic Championships All-Tournament Team selection, Dalton amassed 473 kills, 376 digs, 127 assists, 87 blocks and 47 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .449 this fall. As a sophomore in 2009, Dalton produced 309 kills, 262 digs, 209 assists, 61 blocks, 33 service aces, leading the Wolverines (22-7) to a Class 5A state tournament appearance.

Dalton has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of her church's youth group in addition to serving as a youth volleyball instructor.

"The thing that I saw with Dalton is that she sees the court very well," said Sally Moos, head coach of rival Cherry Creek High. "She's deceptive with the shifts she can use. Dalton has the ability to hit different shots—she can cut it, roll it and go to the deep corner. She can pass, serve, receive, play the front row, and block. She's a very, very good all-around player."

Dalton will begin her senior year of high school next 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 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.

Dalton joins recent Gatorade Colorado Volleyball Players of the Year Morgan Broekhuis (2009-10 & 2008-09, Colorado Springs Christian) and Lauren Van Orden (2007-08, Grandview) 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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