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**CHARTER SCHOOL OF WILMINGTON STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE 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 Kelly Perillo of Charter School of Wilmington as its 2010-11 Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year. Perillo is the second Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Charter School of Wilmington.

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 Perillo as Delaware's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Perillo 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 junior outside hitter recorded 268 kills, 136 digs and 26 service aces this past season while posting a kill percentage of .575, leading the Force (14-4) to the state quarterfinals. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Perillo led her team in kills and hitting average, ranked second in digs and passing efficiency and finished third in total service aces and blocks.

Perillo has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth mentor through the Charter Buddy Program and as a youth volleyball coach and referee.

"Kelly Perillo's dynamic play in the front row is second to none," said Bob Trinsey, the director of the Brandywine Volleyball Club. "Sometimes it's like a man playing with boys, figuratively speaking. When she gets blocked, she figures out a way to still hit the ball. When she's in the front row, she is a presence as far as blocking. That means a lot."

Perillo 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.

Perillo joins recent Gatorade Delaware Volleyball Players of the Year Mariah Henley (2009-10, Ursuline Academy), Nikki Kinnier (2008-09, Saint Mark's) and Meghan Bonk (2007-08, Ursuline Academy) 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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