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**BERKELEY PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® FLORIDA 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 Jordan Burgess of Berkeley Preparatory School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year. Burgess is the fifth Gatorade Florida Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Berkeley Preparatory 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 Burgess as Florida's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Burgess 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 led the Buccaneers to a 30-2 record and a second consecutive Class 3A state title this past season. Burgess produced 30 kills, 19 digs, four blocks and one service ace in a 3-1 Class 3A state championship victory against North Broward Prep. The state's Miss Volleyball as named by the Florida Dairy Farmers, she recorded 540 kills, 318 digs, 51 blocks, 37 service aces and 20 assists while posting a kill percentage of .522 this fall. As a sophomore in 2009, Burgess recorded 385 digs, 363 kills, 71 service aces and 48 blocks, leading the Buccaneers (29-3) to the Class 3A state championship and capturing Class 3A Player of the Year honors. She is a member of the USA Volleyball Girls' Youth Olympic Team.

Burgess has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom. The two-year director of the "Everyone Should Play" Foundation, a charitable initiative formed in 2009 to assist disadvantaged youth in the Tampa area offset sports registration fees and equipment costs, Burgess has volunteered locally as a youth volleyball coach. The three-year team manager of the Berkeley Prep boys volleyball squad and a participant in a local literacy-outreach program, she served as a counselor at a two-week youth business leadership summer camp in 2007 and 2008. Burgess has also donated her time fundraising on behalf of Heifer International.

"It is rare that coaches have a truly remarkable athlete who also is the hardest-working athlete they've ever had," said Berkeley Prep head coach Randy Dagostino. "That is Jordan Burgess. On top of that, she is a great team player."

Burgess 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.

Burgess joins recent Gatorade Florida Volleyball Players of the Year Maddie Martin (2009-10, H.B. Plant), Jessica Yingling (2008-09, Timber Creek) and Kellie Catanach (2007-08, H.B. Plant) 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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