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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Megan Sorenson of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year. Sorenson is the first Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Mountain 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 Sorenson as Idaho's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Sorenson 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 senior outside hitter led the Grizzlies to a 22-5 record and the Class 5A state title this past season. Sorenson recorded 20 kills, seven digs, three service aces and three blocks in the 3-0 Class 5A state championship victory against Idaho Falls. The Class 5A Southern Idaho Conference Player of the Year, Sorenson produced 431 kills, 296 digs, 45 blocks and 43 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .466 this fall. As a junior in 2009, Sorenson recorded 428 kills, 286 digs, 53 blocks and 46 service aces, leading the Grizzlies (21-7) to the Class 5A state championship match.

Also a track standout, Sorenson has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 7 in her graduating class. A member of the National Honor Society and a lifeguard at her area YMCA, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church, Key Club International and a retirement community.

"She is 6-feet tall, plays all the way around and has a great back-row attack," said Paul Schwager, head coach of rival Eagle High. "She is the primary passer for her team and has been the only reason that they have went to state the last two seasons."

Sorenson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Wisconsin's Concordia 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.

Sorenson joins recent Gatorade Idaho Volleyball Players of the Year Morgan Odale (2009-10 & 2008-09, Eagle) and Brittany Hewitt (2007-08, Eagle) 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.