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**CARY-GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ILLINOIS 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 Lamberti of Cary-Grove High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year. Lamberti is the first Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cary-Grove 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 Lamberti as Illinois' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Lamberti 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 recorded 320 kills, 210 digs, 72 service aces and 44 blocks this past season while posting a kill percentage of .476, leading the Trojans (41-1) to the Class 4A state final. A four-year varsity starter for the nation's No. 5 team as ranked by PrepVolleyball.com, Lamberti was named 2010 Player of the Year by both the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun Times*.

Lamberti has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and in association with multiple food and clothing drives for area homeless.

"Kelly Lamberti may be the most dominating player I have seen in a long time," said Cary-Grove High Head Coach Patty Langanis. "All year, every game, she was on and ready to play. The bigger the match, the better she played. She was unstoppable all season."

Lamberti has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at Ohio 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.

Lamberti joins recent Gatorade Illinois Volleyball Players of the Year Annemarie Hickey (2009-10, Joilet Catholic Academy), Hannah Werth (2008-09, Glenwood) and Kelly Murphy (2007-08, Joliet Catholic 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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