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**MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Ali Stark of Mt. Vernon High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year. Stark is the first Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mt. Vernon 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 Stark as Iowa's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Stark 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-1 senior outside hitter led the Mustangs to a 41-0 record and the Class 3A state title this past season. Stark recorded 324 kills, 232 digs, 66 service aces and 62 blocks and was selected as a 2010-11 Under Armour First Team All-American. The Iowa Girls Coaches Association Player of the Year, she was named to the IGCA and the *Des Moines Register* Elite Teams each of the last two seasons, and guided Mt. Vernon to the No. 6 spot in the PrepVolleyball.com national rankings.

Stark has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and area food drives, and has served as a tutor in her school.

"She's got the whole toolkit," said Brian Bronzynski, head coach of rival Clear Creek Amana High. "She's a great hitter, but she's also very good at serve receive, and she's an excellent passer. She's one of those kids you have to know where she is at all times."

Stark has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Illinois 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.

Stark joins recent Gatorade Iowa Volleyball Players of the Year Hannah Willms (2009-10, Dike-New Hartford), Chelsey Semprini (2008-09, Ankeny) and Brittany Ridenour (2007-08, Abraham Lincoln) 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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