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**ST. JAMES ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Hanna Forst of St. James Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year. Forst is the first Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. James Academy.

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 Forst as Kansas' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Forst 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 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter led the Thunder to a 44-1 record and their third straight Class 4A state title this past season. Forst recorded 475 kills, 255 digs, 60 blocks and 18 service aces while posting a kill percentage of .536. Named Greater Kansas City's top player as the 2010 Evelyn Gates Award winner and a 2010 Under Armour First Team All-American, Forst helped St. James Academy become the top-ranked team in the nation according to PrepVolleyball.com.

Forst has maintained a 91.8 average in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally at an area nursing home and as an elementary school tutor.

"We played St. James Academy twice and Hanna Forst is a rock star," said Mark Rice, head coach of rival Lee's Summit West High. "She is an all-around force, a great leader and a great player for their team."

Forst has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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.

Forst joins recent Gatorade Kansas Volleyball Players of the Year Chelsea Cook (2009-10, Blue Valley North), Caitlyn Donahue (2008-09, Blue Valley West) and Kathleen Ludwig (2007-08, Bishop Miege) 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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