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**ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Jeni Houser of Assumption High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year. Houser is the ninth Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 Houser as Kentucky's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Houser 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-3 senior middle hitter led the Rockets to a 39-4 record, the state title and a No. 6 national ranking in the ESPN RISE Fab 50 this past season. Houser recorded 337 kills, 213 digs and 90 blocks and was selected as a 2010-11 Under Armour First Team All-American. She was also voted Miss Kentucky Volleyball this year and was named First Team All-State in each of the last two seasons.

Houser has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered at a local senior citizens' center and served as a pre-school teacher's aide.

"She's tall and powerful and she hits the ball so well," said Todd Garvey, head coach of rival Mercy Academy. "She's a huge part of their team and she played really, really well this year."

Houser has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Houser joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Volleyball Players of the Year Deja McClendon (2009-10, duPont Manual), Casey Garvey (2008-09, Mercy Academy) and Kaitlynn James (2007-08, Assumption) 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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