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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Maura Manley of New Bedford High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year. Manley is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from New Bedford 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 Manley as Massachusetts' best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Manley 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 and middle blocker recorded 360 kills, 80 digs and 44 service aces this past season while posting a kill percentage of .623, leading the Whalers (18-2) to the Division 1 South Sectional championship match. A 2010 American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-American, Manley posted a hitting percentage of .536. A two-time Massachusetts Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-State selection, she finished her prep career with 1,041 kills.

Manley has maintained an unweighted 4.19 GPA in the classroom. The vice president of the New Bedford High National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally at the Boys & Girls Club of New Bedford and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Maura Manley is a real power player," said Rob Slavin, head coach of Sacred Heart High. "If anything, she's gotten better this year. She's turned herself into an excellent primary passer and more of an all-court player. She can play the middle or outside. She's a tough server. She's a really gifted player."

Manley will attend Dartmouth College next fall, where she will play volleyball.

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.

Manley joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Volleyball Players of the Year Morgan Thatcher (2009-10, Brockton), Caitlin Barrett (2008-09, Medfield) and Mina Baban (2007-08, Westborough) 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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