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**MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Alex Lovell of Marian High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year. Lovell is the second Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Marian 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 Lovell as Michigan's best high school volleyball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Volleyball Player of the Year award announced in December, Lovell 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 Mustangs to a 69-6-1 record and their second straight Class A state title this past season. Lovell recorded 593 kills, 362 digs, 46 blocks and 44 service aces while posting a .486 kill percentage. A 2010 Under Armour First Team All-American and a 2010 First Team All-State selection, Lovell slammed 16 kills and collected 13 digs in the Class A state final against Mercy High.

Lovell has maintained a 4.11 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at an area nursing home, as a peer mentor and as a youth volleyball coach.

"Alex Lovell is one of the best players I have seen in the state," said Betty Wroubel, head coach of rival Notre Dame Preparatory School. "I have seen her play many times and she is a very skilled player and always carries herself extremely well."

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

Lovell joins recent Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Players of the Year Rachel Charles (2009-10, Marian), Megan Hendrickson (2008-09, Jenison) and Molly Coldren (2007-08, Notre Dame Preparatory School) 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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